# A Flying POST

With a Packet of Choice new

# LETTERS

AND

# COMPLEMENTS:

CONTAINING

Variety of Examples of witty and delightful Letters, upon all Occasions both of Love and Business, and is of very great use and help to all such as have a desire to learn to Endite, and Write Letters, after the best and most Elegant manner now used in Court, City, or Country, being both pleasant and profitable.

Newly Written ( Printed and Published ) by *W. P.* Gent.

*LONDON*,
Printed for *John Williamson* at the Sun and Bible in the low Buildings on *London-bridge*. 1678.

To the Courteous

# READER

## Wiſhing all happineſs.

Kind Reader.

*TIs not unknown how uſeful theſe kind of helps are for the benefit of young Learners who are deſirous to expreſs their minds and thoughts, by way of Letter in a moſt Elegant manner to their Friends and Acquaintance, that are at a great diſtance. And ſince nothing is ſo uſual as writing of Letters, but to compoſe them after a moſt elegant manner is not ſo uſual and common. And for the moſt part learned and Ingenious Men only can perform it compleatly, without ſuch a help as this Book is which was chiefly intended for young practicioners in this Art of Enditing and Writing of Letters, or whoſe ſeldom uſe in writing of Letters make it a buſineſs hard and difficult to them. So here is preſented to thy Candid peruſal, a flying Poſt fully ſtored with variety of Pleaſant, Witty, and delightful Letters, upon moſt Occaſions and Buſineſs that may happen. And here is both fair Examples to Imitate, and good precepts to guide us, and do but peruſe the contents of the Letters over the Leaf, in the Table, and there you will quickly find any Letter you have a deſire to imitate. Alſo in very many of the Letters, are contained Matter and Precepts of good Advice and Councel to many Conditions of Men, which may be very profitable for their conſideration; for here is Inſtructions from a Father to his Son, and good adviee ſent from one Friend to another, who have that true Love one for another, that will ſend no Counſel but what may be both wholeſom and profitable. And here is alſo the young Lover Courting his Miſtreſs, with all the ſtreins of Wit in elegant Language to penetrate her Affections, ſet forth in divers Examples of witty and amorous Letters, and their Anſwers following. So whatſoever you can deſire, for the matter or form of Letters, here is variety to content thy Mind; and as they are the neweſt ſo thou maiſt find them the beſt, and exceeding all others of this kind both for witty Inventions of Matter, and for good Language, ſo hoping of thy kind Acceptance of my utmoſt Endeavours to ſerve thee in this Kind, I am*

Thy Friend

*W. P.*

*The Contents of the Letters follow. First containing some very useful Instructions, and Directions for young Learners, for the most accomplished way of Writing and Enditing of Letters, being an Introduction to the Letters that follow.* Pag.


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## Some very useful Directions, and Instructions, for young Learners for their most accomplished Writing and Enditing of Letters.

*THe first thing to be considered of, when you sit down to write a Letter, is the Occasion, or the Nature of your business you are to write about, whether it be of Advice, or of Intreaty, Recommendation, Excuse, Thanks, Love or Complements, or of any other Concern, that persons who are at a far distance, may have Occasion to write to one another about, since every thing that can be discoursed of or spoken to a Friend present may be written to him in his absence, if it were not for fear of the Letters miscarrying, for tis no Wisdom always to trust a secret to Paper, which may be lost and fall into a strangers Hands.*

*And when you are to begin your Letter, you are first to consider to whom you are to write unto, and what Titles you are to set down first at the beginning of your Letter withinside, whether the Title of Lord, or Master, Lady or Mistress, which Titles (according to the degree of the person you are to write unto) must be set down first of all in a Line apart by it self, and with as great a distance between that and the second Line of the Letter as,*

*Sir,*

*I have received your Letter.*

*But when we write to those whom we would not shew so much respect unto, we joyn their Title with the Body of our Letter after this manner,*

*Sir, I have understood.*

*When we are to write to any of our kindred, if they are of rank and quality, begin your Letter to them with some Title of respect, as of Master or of Mistress, or higher according to their quality, and then add to their Title their degree of kindred, as Sir and most Loving Uncle, or Mistress and most Loving Aunt.*

*Tis not usual to write their name, whom we are to write unto, at the beginning of the Letter withinside, unless it be that the party we write unto be of mean Condition, as if a Man should write to some Tradesman in this manner,* Mr. Blundel *I would desire you to send me, or* Mr Harwel *this may give you to understand, or* Mr. Henry, *or* Mrs Joyce, &c

*And in the Body of Letters we use to give great Persons the Titles of Highness or of Excellency often, and we also often repeat the Name of Lord or of Master, when we will shew the person we write unto any extraordinary Respect, although he be not of any high Condition.*

*Now I come to give some directions about the Subscription of your Letter, which is the Writing of your name, at the lower end of your Letter, and in Writing to great persons of Quality you may conclude your Letter after this manner, with*

Your most humble, or most Oliged Servant

*F. G.*

*And*

*And to these of meaner condition you may conclude your Letter with this Complement, or the like, Your most affectionate Friend to do you any Courtesy,*

H. M.

*Besides the Subscription of your Letter, tis usual to set down the Date, containing the place from which you write, with the Day and Year wherein you write, and some do use to set down the Date first of all above their Letters.*

*And when you have writ the first Line of your Letter, which shews the Title and quality of that person you write unto, whether it be to my much Honoured Lord, Lady, Master or Mistress, then you may proceed on with some Complements to ingratiate your self into their favour to whom you write, and for the matter of the discourse of your Letter it may be various, according to the business you write about, whether to Intreat or desire any Courtesy or Favour or to send your humble thanks for many Favours received, or to excuse your self for any Neglect might be laid to your Charge, as for Letters writ in answer, we follow the Order of those Letters, which we write an Answer unto.*

*And you must endeavour to study both shortness, and plainness, in your writing of Letters, and make use of the most significant expressions you can Invent, to adorn your Letter withall, that may comprise your business in as little Space as may be, that it may not tire them that are to read it, with too long Repetitions.*

*And also you must study plainness in your writing, that what you write be in a plain Language, and easy to be understood, for sometimes your Letter may concern Business, that may not with conveniency be showed to a third person, by calling to him to desire his Assistance, for to find out the meaning of your learned Epistle, that may be far above the Capacities of vulgar Persons to understand, for this plainness of Writing is to be measured according to their Learning and Capacities to whom the Letters are sent.*

*And again your Letters must be fairly written, (upon good fine Paper, that may carry Ink very well) and with large Margins, that the Writing come not too neer the Edges of the Paper, or else the Sealing up of the Letter may be in the Writing, and when the Letter is broken open to be read, may indanger to tear off same of the Writing with the Seal, whereby some Business of great concernment in the Letter may be so defaced and rent, that it may prove very difficult to find out the meaning of it. And you must take great heed there be no Blots, or blotted Characters in your Letter, which is very unseemly, and may occasion some Business of Concernment to be overslipped, but let your Letter in every Respect be fairly written, that it may delight the Readers sight in beholding of it.*

*And for the last thing, before the Writing of your Superscription or Direction of your Letter whithout tis to go, you must take heed to fold up your Letter neatly, and for the Sealing up of it with the best Indian perfumed Wax, which is the most secure, and best way of Sealing it up, Although many of late*

Years

*Years do commonly use Sealing Wafers, because of their Cheapness and conveniency of Sealing at all times with little Trouble.*

## And now here follow the Superscriptions, and directions for Letters of all Sorts, suitable for all degrees and Qualities of Men and Women.

*To the most High and Mighty Monarch, his Sacred Majesty of great* Brittain.

*Or Thus*

*To the most Gracious and Victorious Monarch* Cæsar Augustus Salutem.
*To the most Illustrious Prince.*
*To the most renowned Duke.*
*To the Right honourable Earl of* &c.
*To the Honourable Lord* &c.
*To the Right Worshipful* H. T. *Knight Baronet.*
*To the Worshipful Sr.* T. S. *Knight.*
*To the Worshipful* A. H. *Esquire: you must observe not to write to Mr.* A. H. *Esquire, for the Mr. will be ridiculous, Esquire Including it.*
*To the most upright and just Judge.*
*To the most Skilful, most Learned, and approved Pyhsitian.*
*To the most Skilful, and most Airy Musitian.*
*To his worthy, and highly esteemed Friend.*

### Superscriptions to Kindred and Relations.

*To his Honoured and well beloved Father.*
*To his Dear and Tender Mother.*
*To his most affectionate Brother or Sister.*
*To his dearly beloved Wife.*
*To her dearly beloved Husband.*
*To his Loving Uncle.*
*To the Honourable Colonel.*
*To the courageous and most valiant Captain.*

### Superscriptions to Lovers.

*To the Life of my Soul Mrs.* A. B.
*To the fair Hands of the Honoured Lady.*
*To my best Choice, Mrs.* P. P.

# A Packet of new Letters and Complements with their Answers.

A Father's Letter to his Son at School in the countrey.

*Dear Child,*

AS it is my Fatherly care to provide for your future good, in bringing you up to learning: as well as my present endeavours to see that you want nothing in the time of your Minority; so I expect that you by being dutiful and diligent should make me amends for all my costs and charges. Be sure you mind your Book, and consider, that you alone will receive the benefit: let not too much play steal away your mind from Learning, for you can never receive any good thereby, but harm does often happen by overheating your self, which will dull your memory, and make you incapable of attaining what your Master shall set before you; so that you will cheat both your self and me; your self of time and knowledge, and me of my Money and expectations. When you have a little leisure from your Latin, I would have you practise Writing, which will be a recreation to you; for to be always upon one exercise doth dull the senses of any one whether Young or Old, and it would be a comfort to me to have a Letter from you now and then to hear of your welfare: be careful how you spend your time, and you shall want for nothing that I can help you to, that may encourage you to be a good boy, and the way to be so is to live in the fear of God, and to keep his Commandments, then will his Blessings for ever attend you, and you will be a joy and comfort to me and your tender Mother in our old

Age: Both our Loves remembred to you and your Mistress, I am

*From London May* 10 1677.

Your loving Father,

*A. B.*

The Sons Answer.

*Honoured Father,*

AFter my humble Duty presented to you and my Mother, these may let you understand, that through the blessing of God I am in good health, and will to my lives end be dutiful and obedient, to you and my good Mother; taking your advice and counsel in every thing, knowing that you wish me well both for my present and future happiness: my Master is very kind to me, and careful of my welfare in every respect; pray be pleas'd to accept of my ill writing at present, and I doubt not but in short time, I shall mend my hand and write better, though as yet I have had but little time allowed me, to learn to write. My kind Love and service to all my Relations and Friends is all at present that I have to trouble you with who am,

*Your dutiful and most obedient*

Tunbridg May the 20. 1677.

*Son till death*

*C. B.*

A Citizen returning his Friend kind thanks for his entertainment when he was in the Countery.

*Kind Sir,*

THe great and manifold kindness which I have often received from you and your Wife do ever call upon me, and

and put me in mind of making an acknowledgment, as some part of satisfaction; but most of all those infinite favours which you were pleased to confer upon me when I was last in the Countrey must not, nor can never be forgot whilst I live; I know not how to make you amends to my own content, in no way but desiring your good company in London at my House, where you may be sure of a welcome from him who is Sir

*Your loving Friend and humble Servant,*

London August 6.
1677. *E. G.*

The Country Gentleman's Answer to the Citizen.

*Sir,*

IT is not my business to complement my Friends with fair words and eloquent Speeches, but to tell them in downright and in plain Language, they are welcome; and not only to tell them so in words, but to let them find they're welcome by their entertainmen; which if you found worth your acceptance I wish you had stayed longer, for I'le assure you Sir, your company was most delightful, and most pleasant to me all the while you were in the Countrey; Insomuch that I cannot be contented to be long without it; therefore since you would not tarry with us, I do intend to come very speedily to *London*, and give you a visit where I do purpose to remain till you are weary of my company and I weary of the City, but how long that may be I cannot tell: in the mean time Sir I present my Service to your self and good Brother *Thomas*, wishing you all health and happiness, I remain,

*Wye August* 18. Your truly loving Friend
1677. *T. S.*

A Gentleman to a young Lady whom he courted to marry.

*Honoured Madam,*

SInce last I had the happiness to see your fair face, Cupid hath wounded my heart with those Arrows which he borroweth from your eyes, and unless you will be pleased to give relief to my miseries and pain, which I thereby do undergo both night and day, alas I shall be of all Men most miserable: my humble suit which I now beg is this, that you would be pleased to make me for ever happy, by giving me admittance into your sweet Company, and meet my honest and lawful desires with smiles upon your Brow; I shall not court you out of complaisance, but tell you Madam honourably and plainly, that with your good liking I intend to make you my wife, which if you accept of my serious proposition, I shall for ever be blest, and you Madam I hope will never have cause to repent your choise: thus expecting your kind reply; I for this time begging your pardon, do humbly take my leave and remain, Madam

*Dover March* 2. 1677. The humblest of your Servants,

W. G.

*The Ladies Answer.*

*Sir,*

I Cannot but bless my self with admiration that so wise a Man as your self, should talk so idly to say, that my Eyes have wounded your Heart: I must needs tell you I think you talk of impossibilities, and that want of rest occasions this distraction of mind; you pretend to be no complemental Courtier, yet appear to be the greatest that ever I met with by this your Letter you sent me. I must confess according to

equali-

equality of Fortunes you out do me, and I am not of Birth so highly descended, therefore you may presume, that a few words from a person of so much Worth as your self may win so silly a Woman as I am, but flatter not your self with that, for I'le assure you I think as well of my Virginity as the best of them all do, and shall be as loth to part with it, except it be upon a good consideration; therefore if you are real as you pretend concerning Marriage, your suit may be accepted, but if otherwise, you take your aim amiss: this till I know you better I hope may suffice from her who is,

Deal March 16. 1677. *Your Servant on honourable terms,* S. B.

A Country Farmer's Son to one of his Neighbours Daughters.

Dear Betty,

I Must confess ever since you and I drank together last Warm-love Fair, I have had a great affection for you, insomuch that I cannot rest at night for those sweet kisses we then had together, when we drank the last half pint of White-wine and Sugar: I then perceived that the company of a Woman-kind, was far better than a Mans; and truly now I begin to think my self Man sufficient to have a Wife, and if you think so well of me, as I do of you, we will make no long business of it, for to tell you the truth I am a little in hast, having ever since I saw you, had some strange thoughts and fancies, fits of Love I suppose they be, if not, I'le swear I cannot tell what to call them: Sometimes I dream too, and to be sure it is of you; therefore I think the best way to give me ease is to marry quickly, and after we have seen one another once more, I think it will be time for the old Folks to meet to consult about the bargain, in the mean time I swear I love you dearly, who am

Torrington June 24. 1678. *Your loving Friend* R. L.

Betty's

Betty's Anſwer

*Honeſt Ralph,*

I Muſt confeſs you were very kind to me at our laſt and I took it ſo, yet I would not have you think me fond, for a young Maid as I am may go to the Tavern with a Neighbour's Son at a publick Fair, and kiſs a little too, and yet not be accounted fond I hope: to tell you truly ever ſince that time I have found a ſtrange alteration in my body and mind, for when I think of you (which is very often) I cannot forbear ſighing, inſomuch that our folks take notice of me, asking me what's the matter, but indeed they ask me more then I can anſwer them; only now you put me in mind on't I am verily perſwaded that it is Love that people ſo much talk of: yes it muſt be Love I am ſure of it: I alſo dream in the Night, and ſuch ſtrange dreams, that I ſhall not name till we are married, which if the old Men our Fathers do agree, ſhall be as ſoon as you pleaſe, till then I am,

Your loving Wife in conceit,

*Harrow on the hill July* 1. 1676. E. L.

*A Letter to court a young Widdow, who had lately buried her Husband.*

Hopoured Madam,

TO ſay your beauty only moves me to love you, would only be to flatter you, or to ſay your Wiſdom were a ſecond cauſe, I ſhould bely my ſelf; though this I needs muſt tell you Madam, that I know you are both fair and wiſe, and that beyond an ordinary compariſon, both which are excellent ornaments of Nature; but I look further, Madam into your actions and find them carried on and guided by that precious

cious Jewel called Virtue, the beauty of the Soul, an excellency by far transcending all indowments; and for that Madam I love and honor you. 'Tis pitty Madam so much youthful worth should any longer be clouded under mourning Weeds, what though your Husband was a kind and loving Man to you in his Life-time, yet memory of him ought not to be a trouble to you after his Death, for he receives the comfort of all his good deeds which he did in his Life as a due recompence of a good Christian; therefore Madam your sorrows ought to cease, because he rejoyces in another World; revive your Spirits Madam, and bethink your self that we must live by the quick and not by the dead; therefore we ought to make the best use of our time, not knowing how soon we may be call'd aside, and it would be a great pitty, that we should die and leave the World behind us without some enjoyment of those delights for which we are created to partake of. My humble suit is Madam that you would be pleased to accept my honest Love, and grant my request, which is, that you would think so well of my person as to smile upon my reasonable demands, which are that you would become my Wife, and throw aside all these melancholy thoughts of your dead Husband, and for my further satisfaction Madam, concerning your affections, I beg that you would send me my sentence either for Life or Death, in the mean time I remain,

Warwick September 8. 1677. *Your desperate Lover,*

T. W.

## The Widows Answer.

*Sir,*

I Must confess you began to court and complement me very Learnedly, and in my opinion (if I may be my own Judge) in the beginning of your Letter, you writ nothing but

but the truth: for my beauty cannot move any one to love me, neither will my Wit nor Ingenuity be attractive to any Man that is endowed with such super excellent Wisdom, and with so quick an apprehension as your self: yet I have so good an opinion of my self as to think that I have beauty enough to serve any Man's turn, that is less handsome then I am, and Wit enough to know when I am flattered, and how to avoid the deluding temptations of the flatterer, and that I count sufficient for any Woman of so ordinary a quality as my self; as for my Virtues I hope I have my share amongst the rest of my Sex, for which I give God the praise; neither am I proud, that you think or call me virtuous, however I have thus much knowledge, as to understand that virtue is an ornament far excelling all beauty or any other natural parts which are but momentary and like a shadow which now appears, and on a sudden vanishes away. 'Tis true my former Husband which is now dead was an honest Man, that you, and all the World that knew him must confess, which is a rare principle amongst you Men to be so, as well as so to be accounted: but I knew more then this, he was to me both loving and kind, as well as honest, and so kind that I scarce believe that he has left his fellow behind him, therefore do not think that sorrow sits so slightly on my brow, as to be blown off with two or three fair promises; Oh no, I cannot so suddenly forget so good a Man, and pitch my mind upon a second Husband, though I must confess that my youthful Age will not permit me to deny my self a second Husband, but whoever that shall be, that likes me so well as to marry me, must stay a while longer, and then without doubt I may be easily entreated if I like the Man, which I know nothing to the contrary but that you may be. If I find you love me as you say you do, I am Sir.

*Litchfield October* 10. 1677

Your Servant in Sorrow,

*S. T.*

and

*A Merchant to his Factor in the West-Indies.*

Mr. Johnson,

I Have sent you over some goods for you to dispose of in the Ship called the Woodstrange, Captain Stout Commander; you will find the particulars and the prices of them, in the Bill herein enclosed, I hope you will give me no occasion to doubt your care in putting of them off to the best advantage; however I think it behoves me to advise you, to have a quick eye to find out how the Markets go with you, and if there is not many of those sorts of Commodities arrived at Virginia (as I hope there is not) then I do not question but you will sell mine at a good advantage; therefore pray be diligent and make an enquiry after those concerns: for in your good management of my affairs in those parts depends my whole livelyhood, I would have you traffick them away for Tobacco only, and return my venture back by the same Vessel, this with my prayers for good success is all at present,

London, November 25. 1676.

*Your loving Friend,*

W. P.

The Factor's Answer.

*Honoured Sir,*

I Have received those Goods which were mentioned in the Note which you inclosed in your last Letter, dated the twenty fifth day of *November*, one thousand six hundred seventy and five, they come safe to my hands without the least damage, and I have disposed of them according to my best judgement. I hope you do not question my best care and double diligence in serving you, who repose so much confidence and trust in me. It happened to be just as you imagined, and wisht, for there

was very few of those sorts of Commodities arrived at our Port at the time you sent yours, therefore I had the opportunity to put them off at a good rate, and with great advantage: according to your desire, I have returned you back by the same Ship five hundred Hogsheads of Tobacco, which I hope will come safe to London, and if they do I know there will no small profit arise to you by them, thus Sir trusting them to the protection of the Almighty, and the Mercy of the Seas, I rest

*Yours always ready to serve you faithfully,*

York River March 6.
1676.

E. Johnson.

*A Letter to dissuade a Friend from marrying.*

Loving Friend,

I Am informed by a friend of yours and mine also, that you are about to commit Matrimony, I mean to betake your self to House-keeping, and to furnish your house with that monstrous piece of Houshold stuff called a Wife, which if true, I am wonderfully sorry for you, that for want of better judgement, or at least without more consideration and consultation, you will put your self to that unnecessary charge, truly in my opinion one of those Utensils or Commodities which you please to call them, may very well supply three or four Families, and you living amongst such good Neighbours it is no question but you might borrow one of some of them, for without doubt when you are married they will make bold with you upon the same account for conveniencies sake; thus far I think I have spoken to the purpose, now let me advise you a little farther before you undertake this bold attempt and give you some strong reasons to dissuade linking your self to such a Serpent that will bite you a thousand ways; to name them particularly, would be a task too great, for me to undertake, that is to say, all of them one by one, but some few of them I will demonstrate to thee as a dear Friend: First, her Tongue will

will command your Will and your humor, and if there should be any opposition to her desires, then she studies how to plague you by her actions; first her commands will be for Money, and more then a necessary sum must be had for such uses as you must not know of, and if you make an enquiry, there shall be no peace in the house for a Month together; Perhaps her lascivious desires may lead her to some merry Meeting, with some of her Neighbouring Gossips, and with them having a while pretty well bow'd, and soak'd their Souls with good brisk Wine, then in steps a Man of the times, a brave Gallant, who seeing your Wife to be young, and something amorous, amongst the rest of this jovial crew he singles her out, and taking her into some more convenient place; where with a few flattering words he entices her to make you a Cuckold, which he calls being kind to him; and thus she revengeth her self on you for not submitting your self to her will in every thing: and 'tis forty to one but she being full of youthful desire does from that very hour conceive with child by her lusty Gallant, and you forced to Father the Brat of another Man's begetting. But to judge more favourably upon that score, suppose that she amongst that small number of her Sex should prove honest, yet you must be sure to expect from her a certain charge and trouble, but an uncertain profit and contentment: You must be sure to maintain her fine, and in gay Apparel beyond her qualitie and the strength of your purse; else will she turn her back-side to you in bed at night, and if she be not given to scold and rail, then will she be sullen and dogged a whole Week together, and will not speak but frown upon you till you grant her request; Women for the most part being as proud as Lucifer, must be deck'd up with gorgeous Apparel, to be accounted fine and handsome by the rest of their Neighbours, not regarding how mean and sluttish they are cloathed when they are at home with their Husbands. Then for your House though it be made never so convenient for your use, yet when the Wife comes she pretends to espy a thousand faults in it, and will not let you rest till you have made such alterations as she shall think fit, though it be to the pulling down of the third part of it, and so build it again according to her Form; and then for your fur-

niture, alas it will appear too mean for her Ambition; She must have Tables and Chairs, and Bedsteds with Curtains, and all manner of Houshold goods after the new Mode, and if you deny to do it, she will pick your Pocket and buy them her self or do something else that is worse. Thus as a Friend I thought fit to admonish you, hoping that you will take it friendly from me; more might be said upon the same subject, but let this suffice from

*A Well-wisher of your happiness,*

Huntington, Febeuary 9.
1676.

S. T.

## The Young Man's Answer.

*Honest Tom,*

IN good earnest I am sorry to hear that thou hast so great an Aversion to Matrimony, and canst give no greater, nor more substantial reasons why thee and I both ought not to marry and live honestly; In my opinion thou mightest have bestowed thy time a great deal better, than to have wrackt thy brains (as I imagine) no less than a whole days time if not more, to frame a debauch'd Argument, against an honest and Virtuous Woman called a Wife, and under pretence of giving me good Advice and Counsel, thou rather dost admonish me to practise that rude course of Debauchery, adulterating other honest Mens Wives; but dear *Tom* have a care of those things, for I cannot think otherways by thy Letter but thou art guilty of that crime which thou so readily perswadest me to commit. And to acquaint thee with certain News, I must tell you that I am married, and therefore can the better confute thy too silly suppositons, knowing of a certain that all those fictions which thou hast raised against Marriage, are false and of no moment; Therefore for thy better Instruction, I shall desire thee to give a diligent attention, whilst I soberly vindicate a married Life and contradict thy foolish Objections gradually as thou hast stated them. First, I say her Tongue cannot, neither is it desired that it should command my will, no further than I shall up-

on-

on all occaſions think fit and reaſon. If it happens at any time that there is a diſpute between us about the management of any ſmall concern, and ſhe perhaps thinks her way beſt to effect it, and I think mine beſt; ſhe preſently then replyes, prithee Sweet-heart do it how thou pleaſeſt, I onely thought good to tell thee my opinion of it; with theſe and ſuch like expreſſions ſhe ſubmits to my will, which I think is far from commanding or uſurping authority as you term it, but I rather receive comfort by her Tongue than ſuffer damage. Beſides *Tom* I muſt tell you that my Wife ſings well, and pronounces her words with ſuch a becoming Grace, that ſhe never ſpeaks nor ſings but ſhe raviſhes my Soul. So much for the Tongue, and now concerning Money a little touch. Be it known to you Sir, ſhe never wants that, for ſhe has the keeping of all I have, therefore hath no occaſion to ask me for any, neither does ſhe go to Taverns with Goſſips, for we have Wine in our houſe, and every honeſt Neighbour is free to drink of it; and thou *Tom* ſhalt be welcome to a glaſs of brisk Claret, or what Wine thou likeſt beſt if thou wilt come and ſee me. Neither am I in the leaſt jealous of being a Cuckold, for I am ſure I pleaſe her ſo well my ſelf, that ſhe will have no occaſion to try any other Man; it is enough for old Men, or thoſe that are feeble and ſickly to be jealous of their Wives honeſty, becauſe they know themſelves not able to give them their due benevolence; I cannot believe that a Woman will make a luſty young Man a Cuckold, if ſhe does, in my opinion ſhe deſerves to be hang'd. So much for that, and now to ſum up all the reſt of thy objections which thou haſt made againſt Marriage, in few words I muſt tell thee, that my Wife and every other honeſt Woman is contented with her condition in every reſpect, and will not covet new fangles as thou believeſt, but is well ſatisfied with what is decent and comely according to her Husbands quality. And let me acquaint thee *Tom* with what I have experienced ſince I have been married, that there is ſo much comfort, ſo much delight and pleaſure in a Woman when once ſhe is made a lawful Bedfellow that I would not be unmarried again for all the World; thus hoping thou wilt follow my example, I am

Northampton February 24. 1676. *Thine to my power,*

J. B.

*A Letter from a Countrey Shopkeeper to a Grocer in* London *for Commodities.*

Sir,

I Receiv'd the laſt goods you ſent me but they were not ſo good as I expected, whether I muſt impute it to be your fault in not ſending the beſt, or whether thoſe ſorts of commodities are not generally ſo good as they uſed to be ſome other years I cannot eaſily reſolve my ſelf; however I am not willing to harbor an ill opinion of you preſently, but am reſolved to try you farther, therefore I would deſire you to ſend me down by the next return of our Carrier four hundred weight of the beſt new Raiſins of the Sun, two frails of Malago Raiſins, and the ſame quantity of each ſort of Spice as you ſent me laſt, pray let them be all very good, elſe you will quite diſoblige me for dealing with you any more; I have not ſent you any Money, but do intend God willing to be in Town my ſelf about a Month hence, and then I will bring Money and clear all concerns between us; no more at preſent but that I am

Braintry Aprill 5. 1677. *Your loving Friend and honeſt Chapman*

D. F.

*A Letter from the* London *Grocer to his Countrey Chapman.*

*Loving Friend.*

I Received your Letter, and according to your deſire I have ſent you down thoſe Commodities you writ to me for, they are all of the very beſt, and I doubt not but will give you very good content; as for thoſe which I ſent you formerly which you find fault with, I was not to be blamed, for they were the very choiceſt I had then in my Shop, and I dare boldly ſay as good as any Man had in *London* at that time, though I cannot ſay they were as good as theſe are which I have ſent you now, you need not queſtion but my care ſhall be to ſerve you

to

to the beſt of my power; as for your Money you need not ſo much as mention it, for I know your pay to be very good and will truſt you as far as you ſhall deſire your ſelf: I would deſire you to keep account in your Book what Goods you receive from me, that when we come to reckon there may be no difference betwixt us; thus wiſhing you good Markets, I reſt

*London April* 12. 1677.

Your friend to ſerve you to the utmoſt of my power,

*R. W.*

*A Letter from a Citizen to his Friend in the Countrey to ſend him up an Apprentice.*

Loving Countrey-man;

I Being now made a Freeman of London, have taken a Houſe and Shop, and my greateſt want at preſent is a Countrey Lad that would willingly put himſelf an Apprentice to our Trade, I do not queſtion that if you will be pleaſed to make a ſmall enquiry amongſt ſome of your Neighbours; but that you may hear of an honeſt Boy that will be for my turn, the uſual rate which we commonly have is forty pounds and ſeven years ſervice, ours being a good Trade and not very laborious; beſides for our credits ſake we muſt keep our Servants in no ordinary Apparel as ſome other ſmall Trades do, I leave it to your diſcretion to give ſuch a Character of me as you ſhall think I deſerve, and none I think can give a better account of my Life and Converſation then your ſelf, you having known me from my childhood. When you write to me, direct your Letter to be left for me at the Windmill in St. John's ſtreet, thus with my Love to your Wife and ſelf I am

London March 20. 1676.

*Your ever loving Friend,*

T. R.

The

### The Country-man's kind Anſwer.

*Loving Friend,*

I Am glad to hear that you are ſettled in the World, and according to your deſire, I have made a diligent enquiry for a boy to ſerve you as an Apprentice, and now at laſt I have heard of one that I hope may be for your turn; he comes of very honeſt Parentage, and ſeems to be a ſober Lad; his Father hath brought him up to Learning all his time, inſomuch that he is reckoned a very good Scholar of his Age, he is ſixteen years old and pretty well grown, but all that they ſcruple at is about the Money, they like the Trade well enough but are not very willing to give forty pounds with him; however they are reſolved upon that good Character that I have given you, that the Boy ſhall come up next Week and be a while with you upon Tryal, and afterwards if the Boy like you and the Trade, and you approve of him, I do not much queſtion but they will agree with you upon thoſe terms which you have propoſed; no more at preſent but wiſhing you proſperity I am

*Woodbridge April* 10 1676. Yours in all friendly kindneſſes,

*S. D.*

### *A Letter of advice for health;*

Kind and loving Friend,

I Am very well ſatisfied that you are ſeldom well in health whilſt you live in London, and if I may be a competent Judge, I ſuppoſe I know the grounds and reaſons of your ſickneſs which are twofold. In the firſt place, I imagine that the City Air is not agreeable to your conſtitution, and not only with you, but is diſagreeable to thouſands more, and eſpecially to thoſe that are not naturalized in it, and bred up there, it choaks them up. Another reaſon is, that becauſe you have but little or no employment, you are forced to be continually in company, which draws you to drinking either at the Tavern or the

the Ale-houſe by reaſon whereof you loſe your Stomach, that you ſeldome have an Appetite to eat, which much diſorders your body; therefore let me adviſe you for your healths ſake to betake your ſelf to a Countrey Life, you know you may be welcome to me at all times, who am

Epſom July 28. 1677. *A well-wiſher to you upon all accounts,*

S. F.

The Gentleman's Anſwer.

*Moſt dear and loving Friend,*

I Muſt confeſs that you have always been ſo generous and obliging to me, that now it remains on my behalf to ſtudy ſome way to gratifie all thoſe unmerited favours which I have received from you and your good Wife, and truly I am apt to think that you like a skilful Doctor have found out the principal cauſes of all my grievances, and have preſcribed a moſt ſafe and courteous remedy for my cure, and ſhould I refuſe to make uſe of your kind and free proffer I ſhould be found injurious to my ſelf, and baſely ungrateful to ſo good a Friend. Therefore ſo ſoon as I have diſpatcht ſome ſmall concerns here in Town and taken leave of my Friends, you may expect me in the Countrey, let me beg the favour of you to ſend me up a Horſe, for I cannot endure to ride in the Coach; thus with my humble ſervice to your ſelf and ſecond ſelf I am

*London Auguſt* 7. 1677. Your moſt obliged Servant,

F. S.

*A Letter to his Friend in praiſe of his Miſtreſs.*

Honeſt School-fellow,

LOng time have I rambled about this vain World, and have viſited moſt of thoſe Nations and Iſlands to which our Merchants traffick, and the chiefeſt of my buſineſs hath been to

find out a Woman that I could like well enough to make my Wife, to tell you a long Narration of my Travels and of the dangerous Voyages I have undergone, where I have seen grim death come tumbling to me in a monstrous Wave ready to devour me in a moment; or if I should tell you of a thousand more difficulties which I have escaped 'twould fill a Ream of Paper instead of one sheet: therefore omitting all those doleful Histories for brevities sake (though had I a convenient time they would be worthy repeating) I shall only proceed to tell you that at length I have obtained a Mistress, one that I intend to marry and make my Wife, and now I will begin to make a description of her beauties: She is a Woman and a fair one too, and so fair she is that all that ever saw her admire her beauty; her Features in her Face are so excellent, that should the best of Painters strive to draw them out to the life, he would wrong her beauty much; for all his art could never form so rare a Creature: her Cheeks with red and white so neatly deckt that you would think the Lilly and the Rose did strive in them which should have the Victory, till at length they both being conquerors conjoyn together, and center there to make one perfect beauty: Her eyes like two refulgent Diamonds are placed above to cast a splendent lustre on her sweet comely face: Her Coral Lips that close her pretty Mouth are of an equal size, neither too thick nor yet too thin; Her Teeth more white then is the Ivory, like to two Rows of inestimable Pearl stand in a decent order in her Mouth, none striving for preheminence above their fellows. Her Hair which on this Globe of Wisdom grows more White then is the best of Flax by far, and softer then the unwrought Silk that comes from the Bowels of the labouring Silk worm, like the smallest threds of Silver hangs two handfulls down below her slender Waist; Her Neck an Ivory Pillar is on which this Globe doth stand, but whiter is by far, her Arms two branches are, which do proceed forth from the bottom of her Neck for to defend and keep secure that curious piece her Face: Her Breasts like to two little Hills are placed on either side of a most fruitful Valley; Her Belly round and smooth but not too big, and underneath, oh there dear Billy oh there the place of pleasure

grows

grows; but hold rude Pen, forbear to nominate or once to mention any more of that, for fear great Jove should be my Rival too, and on his Ganymede come hovering down and take away my Jewel of such worth. Now last of all to let you understand this lively Fabrick is not mute nor dumb, she has a Voice that should you hear her sing, ravisht with Admiration you would think the Spheres conjoyned with Heavenly Harmony to lend you Musick to delight mankind: Thus take her altogether, I leave you to judge, whether she may not compare with Venus if not excel her, this is the Mistress of my Heart and Soul; and though I have tarryed long to find her out, yet I cannot chuse but think my time well spent having met with this fair Jewel now at last: and now dear Billy to consummate my happiness, I invite you to my Nuptials where you shall take a view of my all charming Bride, and for once bless your self at the sight of Natures most adored Master-piece: Next Munday we have appointed to be our happy Wedding-day that we may begin our joys in the beginning of the Week; I shall expect your good Company, therefore pray do not fail me, for I shall think my self much honoured in your presence; thus, with my humble service presented to your dear self with the rest of my good Friends that live with you, I begging your pardon for this tedious Epistle, do take my leave and subscribe my self,

Yoark June 11. 1676. *The humblest of your slaves*

T. R,

His Friend's merry Answer, praising his foul Mistress by the Contraries.

*Dear Thomas*,

I Received your large Epistle wherein I understand that you have been a great Traveller, since I saw you, to search after a handsome Woman that you could fancy well enough to make her your Spouse, I am heartily glad that you have been so succesful at length to meet with such an Angel-like Beauty,

which if all be true as you have reported to me, ſhe is to be admired above all the Women in the whole World: but however if ſhe ſhould not be altogether ſo amiable and glorious as you relate her to be, I cannot ſo much blame you; for it is but verifying the Proverb which we uſe here in *England*, which is, that Old Men and Travellers may Romance by authority. Now I will alſo give you a full deſcription of my Miſtreſs which I have picked up in your abſence, if you will: I did not go far to ſeek her, for ſhe had ſuch a monſtrous love for me that ſhe began to declare her affections to me firſt after this manner; Kind Sir, quoth ſhe, though it is not the cuſtome among us Engliſh Women to make our application to Men for any thing, though we have never ſo much mind to it, yet I think it is a great wrong to our whole Sex; for we may ſtay long enough before you will proffer us any kindneſs now a days, I am ſure I can ſpeak with ſorrow upon my own account, that I have been marriageable above theſe twenty years, and never yet was askt that reaſonable queſtion by any Man, I know not what ſhould be the reaſon of it, I am not ſo much deformed but that I may be beloved; however what I want in beauty, I am ſure I can make good in Eſtate, for I have Lands and Livings with Baggs of Gold and Silver innumerable; therefore my ſuit to you dear Sir is, that you would be pleaſed to take pity on a diſtreſſed Virginity, by making of me your lawful Wife, for now I begin to hate a ſingle Life. I hearing of this Voice which did ſomething imitate that of a ſcriech Owl, and looking in her rewful face knew not at preſent what anſwer to return my Gentlewoman, at length conſidering of thoſe infinite number of Baggs of Gold and Silver, beſides a viſible Eſtate in Houſes and Land, I'faith, I began to make much on her, and taking her to a Tavern I treated her with a ſmall collation, where I could perceive that ſhe would tope ſtoutly: however to proſecute my deſign concerning the Baggs, I humoured her in every thing, inſomuch that I promiſed her Marriage upon theſe terms; that ſhe would make a full diſcovery of all the Baggs, and give them me in my own keeping, and alſo that ſhe ſhould give me a clear poſſeſſion of all her Houſes and Lands the next Court-day, delivering up all Writings into my cuſtody, all which ſhe willing-

willingly granted, and after the Court was past and I made Possessor of all she had, the next day I married with her privately, giving the World leave to laugh at her deformity whilst I make merry with my pretty young Doxy abroad. But to shew that I am not ashamed of her I'le describe her shape and features to you, and afterwards you may compare your Spouse with mine if you can: Her pretty Cheeks not round nor red nor white, but long and broad inclining to the yellow: Her rouling Eyes like those of a fine Calf which I have seen of six weeks old, but bigger: Her Nose in comely wise like to the beak of a lovely Owl bends down unto her Neck, which well made Neck you scarcely can perceive, for her loving Shoulders do support her Chin, her Breasts like to the well stretch'd duggs of that fine Beast, my Father's old Py'd Cow, when home at night she comes with a full bagg: Her Wast and Belly both together are——that when I went to hugg her, both my Arms could not span round my pretty little Spouse: And now below her Belly I come———for I know you'l long to have a touch at that: Oh there is pleasure! such pleasure just as *Ixion* had when he embraced a Cloud: And now dear, I have acquainted you with all her excellencies, if you long for any part about her, come over and take it freely; for I will be sure to come to your Wedding, where I shall expect the same freedom,

*Newcastle June* 24. 1677. Yours in all Love,

*J. D.*

*A Letter full of Complements.*

Most worthy Friend,

I Being so infinitely obliged to you for those innumerable favours which you from time to time have been pleased to confer upon me, in common gratitude can do no less but make an humble acknowledgement in token of my great thankfulness for those unmerited kindnesses; having no other way to retaliate them at present but by telling you, that your unwor-

unworthy Servant will be always ready at your command to obey and serve you to the very utmost of my poor power and ability, my daily prayers shall be that you may be ever prosperous in this World, and that you may receive the due reward of your Charitable Acts and good Hospitality in the World to come; what else I can say or do which may conduce to your happiness and add to your contentment, I ever shall be ready to act and pray for; thus desiring that at present you will be pleased to accept of my well wishes and this small Token which I have sent you, which is a Barrel of Oysters; I hartily recommend you to the protection of the Almighty, who is the onely keeper and preserver of all Men and all things, I take my leave presuming to write my self,

*London February 9.* Yours to serve you by night or day
*1676.*

*W. W.*

*The Country Man's clownish Answer in their own Countrey Language.*

*Zir,*

I Received a piece of Paper from you, which I think Volks call a Letter, but when I pulled it open I am zure I could not tell wone letter in it; I gave it to wone of our Neighbours that is to zay, wone of our Town; that is to zay, wone that dwells within two or three doors of our door a little thick way; and he being a better Scholard then my present zelf made hard shift to pick out the words, but the Devil a bit of zense can I vind in it, you talk of obliging and vavours, in my Conscience Zir you be not like me wone jot, nor do I vavour you at all; you also talk of gratitude and merits: I'le zwear I do not know what to make of your Lingua, my Neighbour tells me that it is Latin and I wonder that you would write Latin to me, you know I cannot stand under it; and in truth you shall be no zervant of mine; I will have no zuch zervants: as for your writing our Volks put it in the Vire, and vor those shells you zent I know not how you call them, I een mended our door

door with them, and so I thank you for em when you come again you shall be welcome to your old Friend,

*Barnfield March* 4. 1675. Dick Downright,

A loving Letter sent to a Gentle-woman,

Madam,

IS what a multitude of sorrows I am involved since you went out of Town no Tongue is able to express nor Pen to write; Had you commanded me with open breast to have stood before you whilst you had took my own Sword and had pierced my new bleeding heart, I could then more willingly have suffered a death by your hand, then thus long to undergo a continual torment for want of your good company: Ah Madam! you know my heart is with you, how can you be so cruel to make me heartless? live thus long without you, can you forget those pleasant Evening hours which we together spent beguiling time which gently slid away; the silent night not daring to disturb our harmless mirth and innocent delight; whilst on my knees you sate, my loving Arms did circle round and gently grasp your small and tender body, you sometimes would ravish all my sences with a Song, whilst I amazed at your warbling Notes charmed to a silence, and gaz'd upon your powerful sparkling eyes, whose double lustre would pierce a heart more hard and more obdurate then is the Adamant: Then Madam, then stealing of a kiss was not content but robbed you still of more; I kist so long that I at length perceived my self to be the loser; for all that time my heart and soul departed from my breast and vowed they would possess a nobler Room; then into your sweet bosom both did fly and begg'd an entertainment which you gave; and seem'd to cherish them with warm desire: I was content and was glad they had made choice of you to be their Guardian; provided I might be a visitant to come and see they no disorders bred within your quiet breast. But now alas dear Madam! you have left me comfortless, I am left to sigh and breath my passion out unto

the

the open Air without redreſs; and cannot comfort find till you return: Then Madam on my knees I beg, return, and give me eaſe, unleſs you do intend to be my death by ſtaying longer from me; thus to the powers above I do commit you, deſiring you to pity him who is

Lincoln October 15. 1677. *Your languiſhing Lover,*

R. T.

*The Gentle-womans kind Anſwer.*

*My ſweet Soul,*

LEt not your paſſion overmuch diſturb your reſt and quiet, ſleep ſecure and know that I an equal ſharer of your grief do ſigh and mourn in private all alone, not daring to diſcloſe my unknown woes unto the open Air, for fear ſome blaſt ſhould whiſper ſoftly this my diſcontent; I am therefore forced to hide my miſeries, and for a time conceal my inward pain, rather than undergo the angry frowns of an unkind Father; who I fear would count my loving you a diſobedience; My ſtudy is to run a ſafer courſe, and by degrees to penetrate the Breaſt of my indulgent Mother; telling her the noble love which I bear in my boſom is placed on you, and none but you alone ſhall make her Daughters Bride; then on my knees I'le beg of her to molifie the fury of my too rigorous Father, who hath forgot ſince he firſt trod the paths of youthful love: My hopes are ſtill that ſhe will moderate his ſtrict ſeverity and make him yield to gratifie our loves by his good will, and make us ever happy with his bleſſing; who knows but theſe my hopes may take effect? My Mother loves me with a tender love, and when ſhe ſees my reſolution fixt to marry you, and with no other Man, I know ſhe'l never reſt till ſhe overcome my Father with entreaties to be kind; then will our meeting be again with joy: But if at laſt my expectations fail, and that my Father will not give conſent we ſhould enjoy each other, yet be ſure I'le never leave my Dear until cold Death ſhall ſeize my body, and from thence divide my Heart and Soul which are not in his power: them

them I'le bequeath to thee my dearest Love, for they indeed already are thy own; I know I have thy loving Heart and Soul within my Breast, where they shall safely dwell: My Father's cruelties shall not molest their happy being. neither will I long detain them at this distance from my Love: For let my aged Parents frown or smile, within this Month I'le fly into thy Arms and never part till floods of joyful tears have washt away all sorrows from our hearts and hands; that nought but Death shall part us, in true constancy

*Boston November* 1. I remain thine alone.
1677. *S. V.*

*A Letter to congratulate a Friend's happy return from his long Journey.*

Loving Friend,

A Thousand welcomes to your Native Country, where every heart during that tedious time which you were absent, felt no little grief, but every one lamented their great loss in missing you our true and faithful Friend: Your presence caused an awful reverence, and made the vicious and obnoxious Man to creep and slink away his head in private; and now again we on the self-same score who are your friends at this your safe return are blest with joy and gladness: But I above the rest of your well-wishers have double cause to thank auspicious Heaven, who safely has conducted you at length to this our Shore; where being arrived each creature does congratulate your safe return; I now can say I have a Friend and Father to give me counsel when I stand in need of it, this Letter does but serve dear Friend to let you know that now I have notice of your happy arrival, I would not onely by my Pen bid you welcome home, but by my words and actions in your presence express my joy and humble thankfulness to Heavens Divinity in taking care of so much Loyalty and bringing back our Captain, which having missed and been without so long, we your poor Souldiers languishing betwixt hope and despair did fear you had been lost; but now you are come, the Bells in a loud harmony shall ring your welcome home all day and night; the Martial Drum shall beat aloud your Fame; The

Silver Trumpets with shril Notes shall sound your praise forth with honour and renown, thus shall you ride Triumphant through the streets until you come to your most sumptuous Castle long desolate for want of your abode, where at your approach the deep mouth'd Canon with their thund'ring voice shall bid all hail to you their valorous Master; thus praying Sir for your continuance with us, I take leave at present and remain

Launston August 15. 1677. *Your much comforted Friend*

R. D.

*The Captain's thankful Answer sent to his friend expres with many Complements.*

*My well beloved Friend,*

YOu cannot be more joyful at my safe return, then I am glad to hear that yet you live, and living are in health, that once again we may embrace each other with true Love and Friendship, such as is inseparable, had I been a Woman and unknown to you; your Rhetorick would have given me a sufficient cause to think and suspect that you had flattered me; but being a Man and knowing well your former friendship and true affection which you ever did bear to me, unworthy of so great favours; must needs imagine that your joys are real, and since that blessed Heaven now at length has safely brought me to my Native Country; the chiefest of my studies shall be to render my self worthy of those praises which you have been pleased to put upon me, and make my presence acceptable to my honest Countrey-men; and more especially to you my dear Friend whom I long to see; for friendship at a distance though never so real cannot enjoy it self, with that true happiness and sweet content, as that which mutually conjoyns and meets together; then let me beg of you to make no delay, but let me have your company at my Castle, where you shall be my guest for one six months; I also must entreat you not to come alone but let your virtuous Bride company you, with your good Son, where you shall be

sure

ſure to find the ſame welcome as you give me at this my ſafe arrival; And when we are together, I will give you a true and perfect account of all my travels, what dangers I have eſcaped and what recreations I have had ever ſince I left you and departed from my dear Countrey, thus expecting your coming I at preſent remain

*Plymouth Auguſt* 24. 1677. Your Friend in expectation

*S. F.*

*A haſty Letter to his Couſin.*

Good Couſin,

I Am informed that you intend to let your houſe and put off all your ſtock, and betake your ſelf to a private Lodging; I much wonder what you mean and intend by ſo doing, I doubt you go unadviſedly about thoſe concerns; I know not how the caſe ſtands with you: However I imagine that a little good counſel in this matter would have done you no harm but good; you know it is an old ſaying, that it is good to look before we leap, and not to run præcipitouſly hand over head, and not regard what you are going about: However if it prove well I ſhall like it well, and all will be well, but if it ſucceed contrary to your expectation, blame not me nor any body elſe, but your own ſelf: However now you cannot contradict but that according to the Latin Proverb Præmonitus, præmunitus; Forewarn'd, forearm'd; and that is all that I can ſay to you at preſent who am in haſt,

Liverpoole May 10. 1676. *Your loving Couſin,*

W. V.

The

### The Answer in haste.

*Good Kinsman,*

IN haste I thank you for your hasty Letter, and though my present business be in hast concerning my hasty removing from my house, yet not quite so hasty as not to consider what I am about to do: I do not much question but that I have had the approbation of as wise Men as your self concerning the management of this business, and they with me do all of them agree that I have enough to live upon, without incumbring my self with a multiplicity of business, and get but little by it; besides if I should continue House-keeping, I should be ruined, for there is such a gang of flatterers and dissemblers of my kindred, and others that haunt my house, that in a short time they would eat me out of house and home; therefore I think it is better to betake my self to a private Lodging in haft, then by delays to stay longer where I am and be undone by them; I am

Chester May 20. 1677.

*Yours hastily in haste*

R. Hastings,

*A Letter sent to a Friend condoling his long continued sickness.*

Dear Friend,

I Am very sorry and much grieved to hear that you thus long have lain languishing on the bed of sickness; my heart participates of your dolorous miseries, feeling by way of sympathy the self same torment which you undergo; but that alas I doubt won't give you ease, though 'tis a seeming comfort (or rather I may say a satisfaction) to be pitied by our Friends. Let me admonish you to take the advice of the best Learned and most eminent Physician that you know of; and be not concerned for parting with your Money, though sickness I know is very chargeable, yet well you know now by sad experience that the perfect enjoyment of your health is far more pleasant and delightful than baggs full heapt with Gold and

Silver; therefore be not sparing of your Coyn, so far as it may be available and conducing to the procuring of you welfare: and that you may recover your former strength shall be the Prayers of

Sandwich August 20. 1677. *Your most affectionate Friend in sorrow*

S. T.

## The sick Man's thankful Answer.

*Dear Friend,*

THe very sight of your most cordial Letter did give some ease to my distressed miseries, for which you have the kind and hearty thanks of a sick and almost dying Man; 'tis long I considered that worldly wealth is but dross, neither do I esteem of it as any comfort only to procure those necessaries, which while we live on earth we stand in need of: for well I know that when my breath is departed from me, and my blood grown cold, and death hath brought my body to the Grave; that then the wealth of *Crœsus* will not avail me any thing, nor stand me in any stead: My heart is fixed now upon a better subject; which is, that after Death my Soul may find rest and comfort in another World whither now I am going, endeavouring to repent of all my past sins, consulting with my Maker concerning my happiness; for he is the best and onely Physician that can give ease to those my sore afflictions: this as a farewel to you I do send, who am

*Till death gives ease your friend in torment.*

Gravesend August 26. 1677. E. D.

*A Letter to perſwade a Friend to betake himſelf to buſineſs.*

Loving Friend,

WHen I conſider the many inconveniencies that are incident to thoſe that live remiſly and have no employment, it puts me in mind of your Life and Converſation; and to deal plainly and honeſtly with you like a Friend, I am very ſorry to ſee that idleneſs has taken ſuch poſſeſſion of your mind that you will betake your ſelf to no buſineſs; but juſt like a Swine you eat and drink what is ſet before you, but never endeavour to get Money to buy more: Suppoſe you have enough barely to live upon in time of your Families health; that ought not to be all the care that you ſhould take, for it behoves every Maſter of a Family to provide and lay up ſomething againſt a rainy day as they ſay; that is, againſt ſickneſs or any other caſualty that may happen to you before you die, beſides already you have two Children pretty Babes, and it may pleaſe God to ſend you more; which when they come to ripeneſs and ripeneſs of Age will expect that you ſhould give them a portion according to their education, which muſt be Gentily for your own repute and credits ſake; all which will coſt you no ſmall ſum of Money, and when your Eſtate comes to be divided amongſt three or four it will be but a ſlender maintenance for them all; my advice is therefore that you forthwith employ your ſtock of Money in ſome honeſt way which you underſtand, and that will improve your fortune by careful induſtry with ſome ſmall pains, which will be very advantagious for your bodily health; for always to ſit ſtill and do nothing but eat and drink and ſleep; corrupts the blood and will impair your health. I know you underſtand the way of malting well, now I ſhould think that it would be a fine recreation to you for to ride up and down the Markets to buy in Corn at the beſt ſeaſon of the year, and ſo keep Men to manage your buſineſs at home; thus might you buſie your ſelf and reap the fruits and benefits of your own labour; beſides it would be mighty commendable and credible for you to be accounted a man of buſineſs, and if perhaps this way of dealing does not

anſwer

answer your expectation as to matter of profit; you may soon lay it aside and betake your self to something else that you fancy will be more advantageous to you; for there is a thousand ways for a Man that has ready Money to improve it, and gain more by it then at the rate of 6 per Cent. to let it out to Usury; besides if you got never so little by your employment, yet I would have you follow it, for it will keep you from idleness which is the Mother of shame and beggery; more might yet be said of that, but I suppose you understand enough of those things, if you would but practise according to your knowledge; be sure to give your Children learning, and when they are big enough put them out to Apprentice, for then they may live without your assistance; where they have gotten a good Trade if they prove good Husbands they may obtain good preferment: this for your Father's sake I advise you, for indeed upon his Death-bed he desired me to give you good Counsel who am

Manchester February 23. 1676. *A greater friend to you then you are to your self*

F. G.

## His Friends Answer in short.

*Dear Friend,*

I Kindly thank you for your good advice, whether I am guilty or not guilty of what you task me with; Nevertheless I judge charitably of you and your well-wishes, that I think no less but that you write to me out of pure love; I must confess that hitherto I have not settled my self to any publick business nor have I been concerned much in worldly affairs, being something cautious how I dispose of my Money, but since it is your wise opinion that it will be for my advantage to put my self into some manner of dealing; I'le shew my willingness in being obedient to your commands, and next acquit my self of that ignominious and reproachful companion called Idleness, for it is a thing I hate, had I an employment whereby I might busie my

my ſelf, for I have an active and not a ſluggiſh Soul: as for my Children, Sir, it behoves me to take care of their welfare, and it was alwaies my purpoſe to bring them up to Learning, and afterwards to put them to good Trades, however I thank you for your friendly admonition and remain,

Your obſequious friend to ſerve

*Nottingham March* 8. 1676. *H. L.*

A *Letter from an Elder Brother to the Younger reproving him of extravagancies.*

Loving Brother,

'TIs ſtrange to me to ſee you run theſe courſes: except a Man was mad, ſurely he would not make all the haſt he could to his own deſtruction; you are wiſe enough to know that thoſe extravagancies will certainly ruine you if you proceed and do not give a timely check to your immoderate and immodeſt deſires, for ſhame leave off your drunkenneſs before it be too late, whilſt yet you have ſomething left to maintain you like a Man, for when all is gone, you then perhaps may with ſorrow ſigh and wiſh you had been wiſer and not miſpent your time and Money, but you will find no redreſs nor pity from any body, as for my own part if you will not take up and become a ſober Man I will not own you for my Brother, neither will I countenance nor aſſiſt you in the leaſt in any thing that you ſhall take in hand, but if you mend your Life you ſhall aſſuredly find me to be

Andover November 2. 1677. *Your Friend and Brother*

J. K.

The

## The young Brother's Answer.

*Good Brother,*

I Am so far from thanking you for your advice that I must needs tell you, that I am wonderful sorry for your ignorance; I bless God for those natural parts he hath given me, and next I thank my good old Father (which I hope is now in Heaven) for bringing me up to Learning, that now I can see above the reach of such illitterate Asses as your self: alas for you! that which you call drunkenness and extravagancy, I can make appear is the better part of Man, his very Life and Soul, it is to converse with such Men as are airy and brisk, those Men are ful of Wit, Reason and right understanding: We over two or three Bottles of brisk Wine can compss round the spacious Earth, or when we please can give a reason how to fathom the deep gulph of the Red Sea; or soar aloft with reason and sound judgement, and take a view of those Heavenly Constellations, taking the circumference of the broad fac'd Sun, and track his pale fac'd Sister in her nightly paths, and give the substantial grounds of her monthly mutability, taking the exact magnitude of every Star; and tell you which are fixed Planets, and which are moveable; calling them all familiarly by their Names: This we such drinkers can perform and more, which should I name, you would think me mad indeed: and but onely that you are my elder Brother, I should scarce forbear to call you Fop or Fool, who envy at those who practise that which your shallow brains are never able to attain to: but just like a Carriers horse you have but one pace, a softly jogging on in the self same Road, which you have trod in ever since your Infancy; Neither will you be put out of your Road nor pace, but will continue at the old rate in spight of reason and discretion, who are your utter enemies, insomuch that you cannot abide them, but hate them with a perfect hatred; nor will you suffer them to come within your doors. Oh blind stupidity! 'tis well my Father left thee a good Estate; else hadst thou been left to live by thy Wits, I am sure thou must have starved the first week after his decease; but he was a wise Man that did foresee those

infirmities that thou wast born to, and so prevented poverty from coming to thy doors; yet thou with fear of want canst scarcely rest, and without cause dost thou pinch thy self and thy Family; not having wit enough to know one half of that Estate which thou hast left thee, nor how to make the best use of it; that so thou wilt miserably live to thy Lives end, though indeed thou canst not want: prithee Brother let me advise thee to leave thy babling in pretending to give me counsel, and I think the better way will be to come and live with you, and leave but the management of thy Estate to my disposing, I'le warrant thee we will live like Princes, and never want any thing else that Money can obtain: and this I am sure will be the best for thee to live at content, for now I know you live in fear; thus wishing that you would take my counsel is all at present from

*Bristol November* 14. 1677

Your Jovial Brother R. H.

*A Letter of excuse.*

Sir,

I Must beg your pardon that I could not be so good as my word in waiting on you yesterday, for an extraordinary business of great importance fell out just as I was coming to you, and prevented me of the great happiness of seeing you and enjoying your good company: however I know your good nature will forgive what I could not prevent, and on that I rely; giving my self an assurance of a smile and not of a frown when I see you next, which shall be the first opportunity I can steal from my urgent affairs, having no greater felicity then to be in your good company, and to take it as a great favour that my unworthy presence is thought acceptable to a person of so great honour and worth as your self, but that is your humility to condescend to my underserts: But lest I should seem

seem to be too prolix and tedious in making my Apology, I for this time humbly desist and write my self.

Gloucester June 29. 1677. *Your humble Servitor*

R. C.

## The Gentleman's Answer.

*Kind Sir,*

YOu need not have given your self the trouble to make Apology for your not coming to me according to your promise, for I have had too large an experience of your love and friendship towards me, to believe that any frivolous concerns could have detained you from making good your word; neither am I so injudicious but that I know full well that business must not be neglected to visit Friends, nor would I be so injurious to your interest, to disoblige or hinder you from prosecuting your earnest affairs, though I must confess that I take great delight in your company; therefore I desire of you to be so kind to me, as to let me enjoy you as often as conveniency will permit and give leave; I design next Wednesday if health continue to go down to my Countrey-house and hunt a Buck; and if you have leisure from your own occasions, pray favour me with your pleasant Society; your welcome I hope you will not question from

*Tewksburry July 7.* 1677, Your loving Friend

T. R.

## *A Letter sent to a Gentleman in way of Petition.*

Honoured Sir,

AMongst the rest of your charitable Acts and deeds, I humbly beg that you would be pleased to grant me one small boon, and forever make me happy, and obliged to pray

for you; which is, that you would accept of me your unworthy Servant so well, that I may succeed my Father in that Office, which whilst he was living did enjoy, who is now dead and buried, and I question not but that I shall officiate and behave my self so well, that you shall not hereafter repent you, that you did countenance and shew me any kindness in this matter, but with all humility I shall carry my self obliging towards you and the rest of those worthy Gentlemen that are therein concerned. I know Sir that it lies in your power to stand my friend in this business, and I hope you will be pleased to think me capable of what I make my request to you for, being brought up and educated under my Father in the same way; my industry and diligence with humble gratitude shall ever attend you whilst I am Sir,

*Your Servant in all thankful*

Walton December 10. *acknowledgement*
1677. P. Q.

## The Gentleman's Answer.

*Honest Peter,*

I Am very sorry to hear of your Father's Death, the last time he and I were together truly I little thought or imagined that he was so nigh his end, though I must confess that he was pretty well stricken in years, you may assure your self that for his sake and your own also I will do you any kindness that lies in my power, and though the management of this concern does not wholly depend on my single choice and approbation; there being several other Gentlemen you know which are equally concerned with me in the same business, yet I do not question in the least but that they will freely condescend to my propositions in your behalf, therefore rest your self contented for a while, and doubt not but that you may succeed your Father in this place, and when we meet together you may be confirmed according

cording to your desire; no more at present but remain

*London December* 28. 1676 Your assured Friend,

*R. S.*

*A Letter from a Gentleman to a Country School master concerning putting his Son to School with him.*

Worthy Sir,

ALthough I have not had the happiness as yet to be well acquainted with you, yet your good works have rendered you famous to my opinion, having partly understood some of your excellent qualifications in enducating youth by some of my near Neighbours, who have been concerned with you by committing their children to your tuition and government; which by evident examples you have demonstrated that you have taken no small pains and care in order to their benefits, for I find they have made a good proficiency considering their time and Age; I have a Son Sir about ten years of Age that I intend to commit to your charge very suddenly, therefore I would desire you to govern him according as you shall find him well or ill disposed, not with too much severity nor too much lenity, and I shall be willing to answer any reasonable demands as you shall desire both for his board and Schooling; pray send me word if you please to accept of him, and I will speedily come down along with him, who am

London January 8, 1676, *Your Servant unknown,*

*J. P.*

The Answer.

*Sir,*

I Must confess you are a Stranger to me, nevertheless I am bound by the rules of civility to give you thanks for your good opinion of me; however I hope if you ever make trial of

what

what you have hitherto but only had by reports, that I ſhall make good that Character which your Neighbours have given to your own ſatisfaction and belief. If you pleaſe to bring your Son down to me Sir I ſhall be very careful of him as I am of all others which I take in hand, and I doubt not in the leaſt but that we ſhall quickly agree upon terms: I have conveniency enough to entertain him, and we live in a very good wholeſome Air; I never had a Boy that lodged in my houſe return home ſick ſince I kept School, which is now about ſixteen years ſince: Yet I have entertained many good Mens Sons; as for his diſpoſition I ſhall ſoon learn and find out what temper he is of, and accordingly ſhall have an eye towards him; thus till I ſee you Sir I remain

*Hartford January* 15. 1676. Yours in all reaſonable ſervice

*W. K.*

*A Letter to a Gentle-woman with a Ring ſent as a token.*

Faireſt of Creatures,

I Here preſent you with the true Emblem of my love, it is a Ring which repreſents my Love to you is endleſs, that though you frown upon me and ſeem to ſlight my proffered ſervices, yet ſtill my Love endures as firm as at the firſt; neither can all your angry denyals to my loud continued ſute alter or change my loving reſolution. This Ring is Gold the pureſt of all Metals, which ſignifies (if that you pleaſe to take it ſo) that my Love is pure, and the pureſt of all Love; not tainted nor corrupted with any thoughts of worldly intereſt, but 'tis your love alone Madam that I ask; how can you be ſo cruel to your adorer, and that takes no delight in any Creature living, but your ſelf, I dare not call you unkind nor ſpeak the leaſt ill thing againſt you, for my love is ſo great that I cannot call your diſdain unworthineſs. Let pity move you to com-

paſſion,

passion, which if I find, I shall not doubt but that I shall quickly be a Conquerour, till then I restless live

Windsor April 5. 1677. *The object of your scorn*

N. L.

Her Answer.

*Sir,*

IF that you count it any happiness to be beloved of one so mean as I am, who hitherto have held you in disdain and laugh at all your discontent with scorn: Then bless that happy hour when you did buy that Ring you sent me for a token; not for the value of the Ring I love you, but those your kind expressions which you writ to me in your last Letter have moved my heart to pity, you then now may assure your self a Conquerour; for I do pity you, and not onely so, but I love you too for your true constancy, had you been fickle and had took denial in a short time, I never would have granted you what now I do; then now be comforted my Love, and cast all sorrow from thy heart, for I am thine and will be to my death: think not of any thing that has formerly past between us, for I will love thee the better for the time to come, and when you please to come and visit me; you shall be welcome to her who is

*Okingham April* 9. 1677. Your affectionate Lover,

*J. P.*

*A Letter desiring his Friend to acquaint him with news that is stirring.*

Kind Friend,

KNowing that your affairs in the World are of no small importance, and that you negotiating your self with Men of Foreign as well as Domestick business cannot but be acquainted

quainted with all the news that is stirring, both at home and also at places more remote; I shall be glad to have some small satisfaction from you by a weekly Letter, if you would give your self the trouble of writing I would be at what charge they should cost you in sending them, that I might a little please my self in hearing what transactions happen on this our Earthly Globe of Mortality. For in our Countrey we hear no news, except perhaps I hear that our Neighbour Prattle's Daughter belly begins to swell by eating too many Pease-pottage, or else some body has prickt her there; or else at present we know not what, this and the like stories is all our divertisement; no more but remain

Chesterfield July 10. 1676. *Yours expecting to hear from you*

N. J.

The Answer.

*Good Cousin,*

I Must humbly beg your pardon for my long silence, and now at length if writing upon such an insignificant account as I now have done: had there been any thing of News abroad worth the relating, and had it come to my ears I would have been sure to have made you acquainted with it e're this: as for Foreign business and affairs of State I hear no noise, God be thanked the Universe of Mankind is hush'd into a quiet peace for ought I hear, and trading flourishes indifferent well amongst ingenious Men and good Husbands, but bad Husbands will always be finding fault of the badness of Trade, when it is their extravagancies which makes them sink and decline in the World; as for the News which you tell me concerning your Neighbours Daughter; I think it is almost Universal, for young Maidens now a days are often troubled with such swellings, but it seldome lasts them above nine months, and then it asswages again, insomuch that we scarcely take any notice of such like distempers; now of late I may inform you thus much, that the building of St. *Paul's* Cathedral in *London* goes on most expeditiously, and

I am apt to think will be accomplished a great deal sooner then most men could imagine so tall a structure could be finished; some other news I can acquaint you with, which though it be a little Jocose yet it is very certain, that several Men of several minds, of several conditions, and several qualities; do wear the Bull's Feather upon their heads, and yet they know not some of them that they wear it there, but others do; and count it a great ornament, supposing that their Horns were tipt with Gold, neither will they matter if their Neighbours call them Cuckold, for if they do, they'le ask them to shake hands; all the difference between them being this, the one knows himself to be a Cuckold, and the other only thinks that he himself is none; and I believe you have some of this sort of Cattle in your Countrey: no more but am

*London July* 20. 1676. Yours upon all occasions

*R. D.*

*A dunning Letter sent from a Creditor to his Debtor for Money.*

Sir,

COntrary to my natural Will and Inclinations, necessity forces me to give you a timely summons that you may provide me some Money against the next quarter-day, for I shall be very much necessitated about that time for Money, else I would not have troubled you as yet, though I ask you for nothing but what is my own: However had I not received great sums of late in my way of Trade, I would not have called in my Money from you, because I know it to be very secure whilst it is in your hands; therefore pray be pleased not to take amiss these my lawful demands, but let me have a speedy Answer from you which may be effectual to my desires, and I will for the time to come be always studious how I may again

be ſervicable to ſo good and ſure a Friend as your ſelf, which may aſſure you that whilſt I live I am,

York Auguſt 28. *Yours to the utmoſt of my power*
1676. G. R.

**His Friend's Kind Anſwer.**

*Kind Sir,*

YOurs I received and am very ſorry to hear that you have ſuffered any loſs or damage in the way of your Trade; I wiſh you may recover with intereſt what you have loſt, and am ſo far from being angry with you for ſending for your own, that I am rather angry with you for queſtioning that which you might aſſuredly know, which was the payment of that Money which you ſo kindly lent me: however to ſhew my thankfulneſs to you for thoſe favours, and my willingneſs to gratifie ſo good a Friend, I have ſent you by your Couſin all the Money which I owe you, both intereſt and principal before the time, not knowing but that you may have a more ſudden occaſion for it, then you were willing to diſcover to me your Friend; pray cancel the Bond and ſend it back by your Couſin, and alſo ſend me word whether or no you ſhall have occaſion for any more preſent Money, which if you have, I will be ſure to furniſh you with it, being ever as ready and willing to ſerve you,

*Halifax September 2.* AS You have been to oblige me
1676. R. W.

*A Letter to perswade a Friend to marry.*

Loving Friend,

IN considering your welfare, and taking a short view into your present concerns; I cannot but think that it is altogether inconvenient for you to lead a single Life any longer, for since you have betaken your self to House-keeping and the ordering of a Family, I am sure that it would be very necessary for you to marry a Wife, whose care (if she perform her duty) will be always within doors, and see that those Servants you keep do not waste nor make lavish of any provision, or otherways, what Goods you shall commit to their charge in your absence when you are abroad about your earnest concerns; expecting all to be well and carefully minded at home: but alas you may be mistaken in a House-keeper or a Servant-Maid, for they oftentimes do combine and have self-concern with the Apprentice, to the great detriment and almost ruine of several young Men like your self, who have put confidence in them; this as the first and no small Argument, I bring to dissuade you from living single, and to perswade you to betake your self to a Wife: The next reason is this which you must pardon, because it is not spoken particularly concerning you, neither does it exclude you; but it may be very properly attributed to any single Man which is a House-keeper: Suppose then this, that a young Man as you are does at sometime or other meet with some of his good friends or former companions abroad as he is walking about his lawful occasion, and being glad to see each other, you cannot well part without drinking a glass or two of Wine together, thereby to signifie your mutual love and friendship which you mutually do owe, and having sat a while in the Tavern one Bottle many times begets two or three or may be more, and still loth to part till it oftentimes is seen that the Wine doth predominate over your reason at that time and you stay late, being elevated with those charming liquors you at length return home, and having no body to entertain you there but your Servant-Maid, it may be in that humour (though not in the least inclined to it another time)

you begin to be familiar with your Maid ( and so familiar as is unseemly for me to name though you may guess my meaning ) this Maid perchance though honest heretofore, yet considering that you are her Master and she but of a low degree or quality contrary to her natural custome, may submit herself and willingly condescend to what you shall earnestly desire to enjoy, which being granted you, on the morrow when 'tis too late, repent you of the Fact, and may perchance be brought to open shame quickly after for such your deed as you have committed; or else forc'd to marry her whom you have already strumpeted: this cautionally I advise you of, not that I know you in the least guilty, but I am sure a good Wife ( of which sort there are many ) would prevent all these miscarriages of youth, and be a great comfort to you both night and day, therefore pray take my counsel, and think ne'er the worse of him who cordially is

Cardiff June 27. 1677. *Your real Friend,*

W. P.

## His Friend's Answer.

*Loving Friend,*

I Am apt to think you speak experimentally as concerning youthful vanities and frailties: However I must confess your advice is good, and I should be ungrateful if I should not return you hearty thanks for so good admonition, but yet I must also let you know that I am not guilty of those transgressions which you forewarn me of: for I seldome am long out of my Shop, but if I should, the Apprentice could not wrong me much, for I take a narrow inspection into all my concerns, that I should soon miss any particular parcel that should by any means be miscarried, and as for being overcome with Wine I think I never was beyond the bounds of reason, but were I never so much addicted to drinking, I should never be over-kind to my Maid; for to prevent that danger I keep one that is well striken in years, and so deformed that she is a perfect

Antidote

Antidote against Letchery: However I shall not tye my self from Marriage, could I meet with a young Woman that was suitable and agreeable to my condition and temper, descended of honest parentage, and reputed to be a vertuous, civil and honest Virgin, and one that after Marriage would not defile my Bed, neither had she in single condition stained her Virginity by yielding her body to be spotted with any lascivious companions, but had behaved her self in all her youthful days unspotted according to the strictest rulers of modesty: with such a one if I could meet, I say it should be the first thing I undertook to marry with her, but truly there are so many that I find miscarry when they marry, that I am something fearful how I tye my self for term of life to that thing which for ought I know may be my perpetual ruine, but as you used to tell me that I must venture, for nothing venture nothing enjoy, I am therefore resolved e're long to take your counsel and good example, who am

*Bristol July 6.* 1677.

Yours as my own

R. L.

*A Letter complaining of such long silence in his Friend's writing no oftner to him.*

Loving Friend,

WHen I considered the ability and strength of your fancy, together with the dexterity of your Pen in writing; as also the benefit and advantage I reap and receive in reading your learned and well composed Epistles; I can do no less but blame you for not writing oftener to your Friend, I am sure and very confident that it cannot be in the least burthensome to you to take Pen in hand, and write to me some few Lines that I may hear of your welfare; which would be very great joy and comfort to your faithful Friend, and recreation to your ready Muse: I know not wherein I have offended you, or acted any unworthy action towards you that

that you should slack your hand from writing, but if you will let me know my fault, I will endeavour to make satisfaction for my misdemeanour; thus desiring to hear from you, I am

Preston September 11. 1677. *Yours in expectation*

W. N.

The Answer

*Dear Friend,*

YOu must pardon my long forc'd silence in Letters, for I have been sorrowfully employed another way, it hath pleased God to visit my poor family, with great and heavy sickness, insomuch that I have buried two of my children the Eldest and Youngest, and my Wife now lies desperately sick of a Fever, whether she may escape or no I cannot tell, for she is very weak, you might imagine that some extraordinary business or other had befallen me, else I should not have been so long in silence from so good a Friend as your self I hope you will not question the continuation of my wonted custome of writing to you so soon as it shall please God to blow away those storms of afflictions that hang over our house thus long, and cause a Sunshine once again to appear, for be assured that I am

Kendal September 21. 1677. *Yours till Times hour glass is run out.*

J. M.

A cunning Letter sent to a crafty Friend to borrow Money.

Kind Sir,

YOur obliging qualities have ever been so great and manifold to me, who have never omitted the least favour from you, that your goodness makes me presume once more to beg

beg a kindness of you; which is, that you would lend me ten pounds between this and Thursday next, and accept of my own Bond for your security but for three Month's time, and you shall then be sure to be repaid it with the interest as shall be then due, and my humble thanks shall ever requite you with this friendly assurance, that if ever you should stand in need of the same kindness, though your demands should be ten times more that I should be proud in obliging you on the same terms; your answer by this Bearer if without excuses will be my present satisfaction, and my study for the future shall be for a requital,

Bury October 15. 1676,

*Your faithful Friend to serve you.*

R. N.

## The Answer.

*Kind Sir,*

I Am very sorry that I cannot oblige you according to your expectation, for at present I have not so much Money to spare by me, nor shall not have any such sum within the time as you have mentioned, you seldome could have asked me at such a time, for seldome it is that I am unprovided of so small a quantity, and if I had it you may assure your self that I would make no denyal of it to so good a Friend as you are and have been to me, but should be glad I could oblige you in any thing whatsoever, therefore pray let me beg of you not to take it unkindly, for it is my Nature and ought to be the free disposition of every generous Soul to communicate his assistance to his Friend in every respect to the utmost of his power, but these your present demands (laying aside all formal excuses and flattering complements) are beyond the reach of my capacity, however I will subscribe my self Sir

Milan October 25. 1676.

Your assured and faithful Friend

S. D.

*A Letter to his angry Sweet heart.*

My Love,

YOur frowns have ſo eclipſed my wonted comfort and conſolation, that without the ſpeedy Sun-ſhine of your ſmiles my future hopes which I promiſed my ſelf will be utterly blaſted, you know you have my heart and all that ever I could call my own at your diſpoſing; therefore let me beg of you to be kind before it be too late, leſt certainly you hear that I died through your neglect and cruelties, who am

Reading December 21. 1677. *Your afflicted Lover*

N. B.

Her ſhort but loving Anſwer.

*Sir*,

I Fancy when you wrote to me laſt you were in a Dream, or elſe not throughly awake, for how can you task me with unkindneſs that have no pleaſure but in your content and comfort; if you have undergone any ſorrow by your own imagination I am very ſorry for it, for I'le aſſure you my heart participates of all your troubles, your Love to me I mutually accept, giving you mine again with this aſſurance, that I am

*Maidenhead January* 2 1677. Yours without diſſimulation, whilſt

*S. G.*

*A Letter upon the delay of a courteſie deſired.*

Kind Sir,

AMongſt the reſt of my Friends you have had no ſmall ſhare of my good eſteem, therefore I thought you would have had greater care in preſerving your promiſe, and not have dealt

so beingemously with me, who have been always so ready to serve you: pray let me desire you not to feed me any longer with fair words, but let performances speak your mind or frustrate my hopes by a flat denial,

Abington March 25. 1677. *Your dissatisfied Friend,*

M. K.

## The Answer.

*Sir,*

YOur Friendship I must confess hath been variously shown to me, for which I must give you abundance of thanks, pray call not my delays incivilities, nor forgetfulness, for believe me Sir my promises which I made you shall be speedily performed according to your desire, and the best of my power, and instead of justifying my self, I beg your pardon for non-performance, hoping 'twill be granted by your worthy self.

*Oxford April* 1. 1677. Yours

D. F.

## *A Letter of Counsel from a Father to his Son.*

Dear Child,

I Have heard that you are given to Extravagancy, which is a great charge to many but profiteth few, employ your time so that you may not lose by the bargain: what a grief it is to want, I pray God you may never know; therefore eschew Prodigality which quickly makes a poor Man. I have sent you twenty pounds, I hope you will make good use of it, and when you need more send to me for it, after the Term the Vacation will call you into the Country, where knowing your Father's House you may make your own welcome. You must not from me expect a flattering welcome, nor take it unkindly

that I forewarn you of what may prove to your prejudice, above all things serve God and keep a clear Conscience towards all Men: converse not with fools, for in so doing you will lose your time: beware of drunkenness, for it is a beastly humor: take heed of Knaves for they are much to be feared, all which my advice if you pursue, you may expect God's blessing, which is

Southampton May 9. 1677. *Your Father's Prayers*

H. D.

The Son's dutiful Answer.

*Honoured Father,*

AS touching the study of Alchymistry I have heard much, but believe little; However I will not waste your Lands to make a new Mettal; I know it is not long to the next Vacation, which being come, I will not be long from you, and if at my coming I find you well, that shall be my best welcome, as I will not flatter my self with your Love, so I cannot but joy in your kindness, whose careful counsel I will lock up in my heart as my best jewel; For to serve God is the duty of every Christian, and no longer let me live then in the care of that comfort; as for Fools they cannot understand me, and Knaves shall not trouble me; as for drunkenness never doubt me, for it is a thing most loathsome to my Nature; as for your Money I humbly thank you, and I hope to bestow it according to your good liking, thus with my prayers for your long life, health and happiness I remain

London May 16. 1677. *Your dutiful Son till death,* H. D.

A merry Letter after the old Fashion sent to a Maid.

AFter my Love remembred unto you, trusting in God that you are in good health as I was at this present writing, with

with my Father and Mother, and my Brothers and Sisters, and Unkles and Aunts, and the rest of my good Friends, thanks be to God for it. The cause of my writing to you at this time is, that I hear Joan since my coming from Weston, when you know what talk we had together there at the sign of the Horns, and how you did give me your hand and swear that you would not forsake me for all the World, and how you made me buy you a Ring and a Heart that cost me two and twenty pence, and I left them with you, and you gave me a Napkin to wear in my Hat and a small Feather, I thank you, which I will wear to my dying day, and I marvel if it be true as I hear, that you have altered your mind, and are made sure to my Neighbour Pigsny's Son. Truly Joan you do not well in so doing and God will plague you for it: and I hope I shall live well enough if I never have you; for there are more Maids in the World besides you Joan, and truly I count my self worth the whistling after, I am sure there are some young Maids about us will except of me, and be glad to leap at me to have such Honey-kisses Joan as I used to give you; therefore be not so high and so proud Joan and so scornful, for if you will have none of me, I will have none of you, but will be as stout and as coy as any handsome Maid in England; for you know my old Grandsir has left my Father good House and Land, and my Father will give it to me his own Son I am sure, and therefore praying you to write me your Answer by this Bearer my friend, touching the truth of all how it stands with you, I commit you to God:

From Willow-green May 11.
1677.

J. S.

*Joans Answer.*

INdeed sweet *John* I did not expect such a Letter from your hands, I would have you to know I scorn it: have I got my Fathers and Mothers ill will for you to be so used at your hands? I perceive and if you be so jealous already you would

be some what another day. I am glad I find you that you can believe any thing of me, but it is no matter; I care not; send me my Napkin and you shall have your Ring and your Heart, for I can have enough if I never see you more, for there are more Batchelors than *John*, and my penny is as good silver as yours, and seeing you are so stout, even put up your Pipes, for I will have no more to do with you; and so unsaying all that ever hath been said betwixt us, pray make your choice where you list, for I know where to be beloved, and so farewel,

Horncastle May 18.
1676.

*J. R.*

*A Letter from a Father to a Son at the University.*

Dear Son,

I Am sorry to tell thee that I hear thy diligence doth not answer my desire, and I would gladly wish it otherwise, but I hope a kind admonition will suffice to work on a good Nature, and therefore will rather hope the best than doubt the contrary: and in the love of a Father let me entreat thee to avoid the company of a lewd fellow, as rather an enemy than a Friend. The Feminine Sex are dangerous to affect, for as they will be a loss of time, so with hinderance of study they will produce expence: The exercise of thy body I admit for thy health, but let thy Love be in thy Learning, else wilt thou never be a good Scholar, for desire and delight are the best Masters both of Art and Knowledge, whilst vertuous Reason makes Understanding gracious: Therefore not out of the bitter humour of displeasure, but the careful Nature of affection I write unto thee for thy own good; and as nothing can joy the heart of a Father more than the obedience of a loving child, so can there nothing be more grievous than the stubborn spirit of an ungracious Son. I speak this to thee knowing thy years and understanding able to digest the consideration of my desire, which in sum is my joy in thy good. For let me tell thee, my Estate thou knowest, and how much I have strained my credit for thy



advancement.

advancement; to which Learning being a speedy and an assured good means, I would be glad to see my comfort in thy profit, in such fruits of thy study as with the blessing of God may hasten thy preferment; therefore be industrious and diligent for thy own benefit. and thou shalt not want a Father's encouragement to the very utmost of his ability; thus praying to God for thee, whom I beseech daily to bless thee, with my hearts love to the Lord's blessing I leave thee; who am

Sudbury February 19. 1676. *Thy loving Father,*

S. D.

## The Son's Answer.

*Loving Father,*

AFter the bands of humble duty, my good Father, I have received your most kind and loving Letter; in which how much joy I have received I cannot express, fearing rather your sharp rebuke than loving admonition; but God himself can and doth work more in some Natures with a kind chiding than in others with many stripes. I know you are not ignorant of the inclination of youth, and therefore thus kindly touch the hurt of unheedfulness, for which how much I do humbly thank you I hope the care of your counsel in time shall pleasingly tell you. Therefore for what ill you have heard grieve not, and of the good you may hear doubt not but believe me; for I will not abuse your trust whatever vanity soever I have seemed to affect: My Book hath been the Mistress of my Love, in which how much I will labour, and from which what profit I will gather your hope shall see in the effect of God's blessing; without the which how dangerous are many studies to the understandings of ungracious Spirits, I would it were known in any, and I pray God that none may know it in me. My preferment I leave to God's pleasure who best knows how to dispose of his Servants, and for your contentment that it may be in my obedience. Your health as the Worlds happiness I pray for; mine own moderate exercise with abstinence from excess, doth with

God's

God's bleſſing hold me in good ſtate: and for the Feminine Sex (though I would be no Hyprocrite) I had rather read of them be acquainted with them; for I allow of your opinion touching them: thus hoping e're long that you will receive as much content of my courſes as you have ever doubted the contrary, in the duty of my humble Love I take my leave for this time, but reſt always

*Cambridge Feb. 26.* Your dutiful Son
1676.

*S. D.*

*A Daughters Letter to a Mother.*

Honoured Mother,

I Muſt acknowledge in all duty that your care of me hath been ſo great, that my prayers ſhall ever petition Heaven for your long life and happineſs; and will always move in obedience to your commands, I have no other ways to expreſs my filial duty and love; but by conforming my ſelf in all things to your commands, and I ſhall think all the endeavours of my life well beſtowed to gain your bleſſing and love which I have hitherto enjoyed, let me beſeech therefore and beg of you that there may be a continuation of your kind love and good affection towards me, and I will endeavour all the days of my life more and more continually to ingratiate my ſelf into your favour, whilſt I am

Chicheſter June 30. *Your obedient and dutiful Daughter*
1677.

J. P.

The Mothers kind Anſwer.

*My dear Child,*

I Received thy kind and dutiful Letter which was no ſmall comfort to me, pray God continue thy duty and obedience to thy Loving Mother, and if thou doſt fear him I am ſure he will

will incline thy heart to Wisdom, which is to fear the Lord and to honour thy Parents with humble reverence, and will be the only way to prolong thy days on Earth, and after Death hath seized upon thy body and sent thee to the Grave, yet thy name shall live after Death and Immortality; and all that ever knew thee shall lament thy loss after death: saying, thou lived'st and did'st die a good Woman and a good Christian, which will be a comfort to thy Friends that hear it, and an Eternal joy and consolation to thy self in the World to come; thus to the protection of him that made thee I recommend thee who am

*Mayfield July 6.* Thy loving Mother
1677.

*J. P.*

*A Letter of comfort to a Friend in Adversity,*

Sir,

WEakness is presently discomfited when any calamity doth befall them, but I doubt not but you are strong enough to oppose your unfortunate sorrows, and to make such good use of them, that they shall rather confirm then discourage you in the way of vertue; I know you can look upon Adversity with an eye of consideration, discerning therein the hand of Providence; look up then, and see from whence all troubles do arise, there is a blessing annexed to them, if they be suffered with patience; your virtue that stands inward may now be made apparent to the World in bearing your sorrow, misery, or any worldly affliction, which refine good men to a great perfection; I know you need not my counsel being strong in your self, yet pardon my love, my compassion, and my counsel, and accept them from

Leicester August 17. *Yours bound to serve you*
1676.

N. C.

The

The Answer.

*Kind Sir,*

LIke as the rain doth fall from a wandring Traveller when he comes dropping in, even so at the receipt of your kind and cordial Letter I felt my sorrows waste and vanish from me, being presently refreshed by your good counsel, and all my sorrow is in this my adversity that I have nothing to requite your love withal but the poor and slender payment of thanks. It is common with others whom we reckon in the number of Friends, to fall off when they see their Friend is fallen into any calamity, but such are no more to be accounted of than the flattering shadow that walks before us in the Sun-shine, whilst your Love being built on the constant foundation of your goodness cannot be shaken with the unfortunate chances of your Friend; in all Estates your Love doth know no change, and this in the midst of my troubles shall bring me store of assured comfort, that I am blest with a Friend so faithful unto him, who is

*Northampton August* 28. 1676. Your friend in the same fidelity,

*C. B.*

*A Fantastick Letter to a Friend to try both his Wit and patience.*

Sir,

I Would be glad to see you for fear of losing my Eye-sight, but for hearing of you, except it be to preserve me from deafness, I assure you it never troubles me: for when I know no good to expect from you, I wonder what I should do with you; except to learn ignorance out of idleness, or to make work to no purpose: yet for old acquaintance knowing this bearer coming near you, I thought it good to tell you how well I love you; yet lest you should misconstrue my meaning, let me assure you that he which doth truly know you will accordingly esteem you; but if you know your self it will be the better for you. I am no Schoolmaster, and therefore will read you no precepts,

precepts, but would with you to observe times progress, and to hold a friend as a Jewel and a fool as loss of time, which if you take notice of it will be the better for you:

*Witten December 2.* Your downright Friend
1677. J. L.

*The Answer.*

INdeed Mr. Coxcomb you have made a very learned Epistle, only it relishes of a little too much Maggot which worketh so strongly and strangely in your lunatick Brain, that I find the effects of her labouring and toyling thus long there to be prodigious; insomuch that she has caused you to write a monstrous piece of nonsence, which you your self cannot understand, and there is also so much of fool into the bargain, that had I not known that you were living, I should have blest my self to think from whence it should all come; I verily believe that thou art no School-master for thou never learnedst beyond the Testament, and whereas thou advisest me to have a care of keeping company with Fools, I shall take thy counsel in that and be sure to avoid thy company, for I am sure in conversing with thee, I shall certainly lose time, therefore I bid thee farewel;

Burford December 10.
1677. R. C.

*A Cautional Letter from a Husband to his young Wife in the Country.*

Loving Wife,

NOtwithstanding the great distance that is at present betwixt our habitations, yet the inward thoughts of my heart and mind are continually with you; I desire that you may be careful of your honour and reputation, for that once lost which we call our good name, cannot easily be repair'd

again; I hope you are virtuous and so guarded with Chastity, that thou art always armed against all such temptations as may be offered to a young Woman as you are, especially having such opportunities as you have at present: However if you do but call to mind, first how great an offence it is to God Almighty to adulterate and defile your self: it being a breach of the Commandment; and secondly, the great and abominable wrong you do your Husband by such transgressions: I am sure upon these considerations well weighed, you will be careful of committing any such notorious crimes; withal assuring your self that those which at any time do yield and prostrate themselves illegally to their lustful desires, though they dont never so privately, even when they may think themselves secure enough, being it may be some hundreds of miles from their honest Husbands, who are careful all their life to maintain them handsomely, and see that they want for nothing; those I say that do offend in such a manner though never so privately, yet those actions like those of Murther will at one time or other be discovered and made known; Fame flies with nimble wing and swiftly spreads abroad the evil Actions of every bold offender, the very birds will whistle forth the injuries the Wife commits against her honest Husband; this my dear love I write not that I am jealous, but only as a caution for thee to take notice of, now thou art so far from me, therefore pray be not angry with him who is

London August 20. 1676. *Thy truly loving Husband till death*

A. B.

**Her Answer.**

*Sweet-heart,*

I Received a Letter with your Name to it, and directed to me, but sure it came from you it was never intended for me, but for some other Woman, but yet not satisfied that you could make such a mistake; I upon a second consideration do fear that you are still distracted: for surely had you that natural sence

sence now, that you had when I departed from you; the Letter you sent would not have been directed to me but to some mistress or small Harlot of yours, whose fidelity you so much doubted and feared that she had to do with more Cullies besides your self; but to come a little closer to the business; I partly smell out your design when you writ that Letter, you are jealous of me though without cause, yet fain would hide your jealousie under the pretence of giving me good counsel. In troth Husband you know I am young, but not so much a Child but I can perceive what you aim at: Alas poor Man! what does your head ake before you have any occasion for it? I am sorry for your mistake; and truly now you have put me in the mind how brave an opportunity I have here in the Country to make you a Cuckold, I am like enough to take notice of it so far as to make the best use of my time and not to let it slip, for I can judge no less but that you have got some homely Doxy or other to supply my place during my absence, which makes you cry out Whore first; but 'tis no matter for that now I think on't Husband I will be honest pray think so, I would fain have you think so, and then it will be the better for my design: I mean honestly indeed I do Husband, therefore pray believe her who is

*Epsum September* 1. 1676. Your virtuous Wife *J. B.*

## *A Letter to invite a Friend to a Wedding.*

Honest Ned,

My Sweet-heart and I have just now considered on't, and have concluded together to make a jovial Wedding, and in troth I am a little in haste too I must confess, and know not well how to stay any longer; for I have such pretty thoughts come into my mind concerning the Wedding-night, and then Ned; and concerning the Bed-posset and then Ned; and when the Candle is taken away and then Ned; but what then is to be done I do but guess Ned; but I vow and swear and

will take my Oath on't, that I long till that time is come that I may know Ned, and 'faith old Soul to make up our merry company I invite thee to come and see us joyn'd together next Saturday, and thou shalt be as welcome as any Man in England, I would have it on Saturday Ned, because we may lie in Bed all day on Sunday, and that's all at present Ned, but the more is to come.

*Barnstable April* 20.
1676.

R. H.

The Answer.

*Honest Robin,*

I Perceive by your short Epistle, that you now think your self to be Man good enough to venture on a Woman, and I am glad to hear that you have got one to your mind; Faith *Bob* in my mind thou art much to be commended that thou dost not make a foolish long and tedious wooing, for that signifies nothing; when they have done all, they must take one another for, better and for worse, as the Parson says; and if it must be so it must, then high for a Boy or a Girl the very first night: for I perceive *Bob* that thou art a little tickled with the thoughts of it already, by my Mack old Boy thou need'st not question my coming; for I am resolved to be there, and will pick me up a Spouse of my own if I can, if not I protest and swear I'le make use of any one that belongs to some body else and so much for that

*Crookhorn-Mill April* 25,
1676.

Thine
E. P.

*A Letter of Farewel sent to a Friend, from one that is going a long Journey.*

Kind Sir,

SInce for several years we have been conversant together, and have held a great correspondency together in way of friend-

ship

ship and also business; I could not leave my Native Country and betake my self to travel without letting you know of my departure Sir, which will be the next opportunity I can have for transporting my self and Family into the East-Indies, and I am informed that we may have a conveniency of Shipping within this Month; within which time if I may be so happy as to see you in Town I shall take it as a great favour, if not Sir I humbly recommend this to your hands, which will let you know that I give you a thousand thanks for all kind courtesies which I have received from you, and if it please God that I return again into England I will be sure to come and wait on you my self; who am

Foy July 27, 1676. *Yours in all places whilst*

G. R.

## The Answer.

*Dear Sir,*

YOur Letter at first sight did very much surprize me to think that I so suddenly should lose so good a Friend, but afterwards considering that your Wisdome would prompt you to nothing but what shall be to your advantage and preferment, I thought I had no reason to envy at your happiness or to advise you to the contrary; I am very sorry that I cannot personally appear before you to make an humble acknowledgement how much I am your Debtor, for all those kind favours which I have received from you time after time; I doubt I cannot get so much leisure from my urgent affairs in the Country, as to come and wait upon you before you depart; however Sir I shall beg of God for your safe passage through *Neptune's* raging Waves, and that in safety you may again return, which if I live to see I'le strive to be the first that shall come and kiss your hand who am Sir,

*St. Ives Augst* 3, 1676. Yours where ever I am

D. N

*A Letter ſent from a Huſband to his Wife.*

My deareſt joy,

After my hearty love, and good Wiſhes preſented unto thee, hoping theſe Lines will find thee, and my family in perfect health, as praiſed be God they left me, although much weary after a long and tedious Journey, which I hope in a little time may wear off again, that I may be in a good condition for the ſpeedy Ordering the diſpatch of my affairs in this place; for thoſe Perſons I put confidence in have not proved ſo faithful as they ſhould have been, which may turn much to my loſs. And I think the time to ſeem very long until I am upon my Returning home again, for to enjoy thy pleaſant company, and to take care of my buſineſs at home that nothing may be neglected there, that concerns our Intereſt, but I hope you are ſo careful in the well Management of it, that you ſee the ſervants do follow cloſe their buſineſs, and that no waſte be made by them: for thy care now in my abſence muſt be more then ordinary, and we ſhall both reap the benefit of it in the end. I intend to return ſome Moneys next week, and then ſhall ſend you a further Account of my Affairs in this place, which I hope by that time I may bring to ſome good concluſion, ſo committing you to the protection of the Almighty, I remain

Newcaſtle April 2. 1676. *Your ever loving Huſband till death*

N. G.

*A Letter from the Wife in Anſwer to her Huſbands Letter.*

Loving Husband I received your Letter, and it doth much rejoice me to hear of your welfare, that you have been preſerved well and ſafely in ſuch a long and tedious Journey, and I would intreat you not to delay the time very long before you return, which I dayly wiſh and pray for that it may be ſpeedily, for I have but litte comfort without you, and beſides your buſineſs at home much wants you, and I am afraid

it

it may prove a loss to you, your being absent from it so long, Notwithstanding I take all the care I can to preserve it, and the servants do rather double their diligence then in any wise to slack it, but you know they have not been long enough as yet to understand it very well, and they want daily your instructions to guide them, and if you cannot finish your business in any reasonable time your self, imploy some other trusty Friend in the management of it, or defer it until some other opportunity presents it self, for at this time pray fail not in returning home with all speed possibly you can, that I may not be deprived of your good company any longer. And your business here at home stands almost still until you are here present to give directions about it, besides there is other matters of great Consequence, that hath happened out since your departure from home, that may be necessary for you to understand; both my self and the family, and all our friends are in health, and desire heartily to be commended to you, so praying for your safe and speedy Return.

*Beaudly April* 14. 1676. I rest your ever loving Wife till Death

*A. G.*

*A Letter from a Seaman, gone to the Straits to his sweet-heart in London.*

Fairest of Creatures.

SInce my departure from thee, my mind hath been much perplexed to think of the length of time, that I shall be absent from thy sweet society, which was more pleasant to me then all the delights of the World besides, and it was hard fortune, that we should be so far separated in Bodyes, when as our Hearts and Hands were so firm united in the bonds of Love and true Affections, that shall always continue in me the same still to my lives end, that should I behold all the rarest beauties in the World, thou wouldest be the only Phenix in mine Eyes, that surpassest them all, both in beauty and other rare indowments, for me to fix my Love upon, and I hope thou

wilt

wilt always prove like the Turtle Dove, constant and true to me, thy faithful lover, and not harken to the Enticements of any alluring, flattering lovers who may envye our happiness, and seek to dissolve that true lovers Knot of love and friendship, knit between us. We Arrived safe at our Port in August last, and hitherto, thanks be to the Almighty, have had a prosperous Voyage, being preserved safe both from Pirates and shipwrack which we have run a great hazard of, from the Turks and Algier Pirates that too often met with our English Ships, of small force, that have not a good Convoy to conduct them. I have here sent you a piece of Venetian wrought Silk to make thee a Mantle, which I hope you will accept of as a small Token of my unfeigned Love, and affection to thee, and now in a few Months more, I hope I shall make a happy return, that we may have a joyful meeting again, that we may consummate our future joys and bliss, and I hope I may make such a fortunate Voyage this time, that if my self and whole Concerns do return in safety, I may get riches enough to keep us gallantly as long as we live, and that such a long absence may never cause our trouble more. And if you can possibly I would desire a Letter from you, to be sent by the first Ships, that sail for Malago in Spain, and let it be directed to be left at Mr. L. B. an English factor there for me, for we intend to put in at Malago, as we return from the Straits to lade Wines and Fruit there, and shall enquire after it, so hoping this Letter will find thee in perfect health, as God be praised it left me, is all at present from

*Leghorn September* 10. 1676. Your most affectionate Lover

*J. M.*

*Her kind Answer to the Seaman.*

*Kind Love,*

I Received your Letter dated, the 10*th* of *September*, and it did much revive and chear up my Heart, to understand your prosperity, and that divine Providence hath preserved you safe from the dangers, and Perils of the Seas, when so

ſo many have miſcarryed (as we too often hear of,) ſome by ſuffering ſhipwrack, and others by the mercileſs Pyrates the Turks, that have robbed them, and have carryed them into miſerable ſlavery, to the great grief of their friends and relations, here at home, and I am very glad to hear it hath fared better with you; I ſend you many thanks, for that rich Token you ſent me, and I intend to wear it for your ſake, and my dayly Prayers to Heaven ſhall be, for your happineſs, that you may make a proſperous Voyage, and return in ſafety which will be both to me and to your Friends great Joy and Comfort, and you need not fear any Inconſtancy in me, for I ſhall prove true to you unto the laſt, and ſhall give no heed to the fables of any that may endeavour to make a breach in our Love, and I ſhall think the time to paſs away ſlowly until our happy meeting again, for to compleat all our Joyes in your ſafe Arival, and the happy Injoyment of your good company, which ſhall be accounted my greateſt felicity on Earth; ſo praying for your good ſucceſs in all your undertakings, and that proſperity may always attend you in your Voyage, and your return in ſafety, is the real deſire, and wiſhes of

*Your true and conſtant*
*friend in Love.*

London November 28, 1676.

E. H.

## A Letter from a Servant to his Maſter.

*Sir,*

AFter my ſervice unto you and my Miſtreſs preſented, Theſe few lines may certify you, that I have diſpatched your buſineſs in great part of it, with theſe Chapmen you ſent me about, and have ballanced the account with them, and have received the Money in full of all they were indebted unto you, and they are very well ſatisfied, and like the goods they had very well, and they deſire farther a good quantity more of the ſame ſort of Commodities to be forthwith ſent them, whilſt they remain ſo cheap and good, for they content their Cuſtomers very well. The other Perſon Mr. K. you appointed me to enquire after, cannot be heard of, having forſaken this

Country for some time, that what debt was in his hands, may be looked upon as a desperate debt, for he hath deceived many more besides, he was for getting what Goods he could into his hands, and made no Conscience to pay any Person there due, I have here sent some of those sort of Commodities you appointed me to lay some money out upon in this Country, which I suppose will yeild good profit at home, which you may expect this week by the Carryer, and I would desire a Letter, whether you have any further service to command me in this Country, before my Return, and it shall be carefully performed, Sir, by

Hexham August 2. 1676. *Your Faithfull and Ready Servant at Command.*

W. D.

The Masters Letter in Answer to the Servant.

*William,*

YOur Letter came to my hands the 10th instant, and I am glad you have succeeded so well in my business, that no more of my Debtors halted, but that they have satisfied all so well, that it will much Encourage my trade to deal further with them, pray Remember me kindly unto them all, and let them understand that none shall sell them better Commodities, and use them kinder than I will, and good peny worths shall be afforded them. I do very well approve of that sort of goods you laid out some money upon, and do think it may turn to Advantage, Return of moneys being so hard to get from that place, besides the danger of Thieves on the Roads pray use your utmost Care about my Concerns, that I may receive no Dammage in any wise, and for your Diligence therein shall not be forgotten, and you will reap the benefit of it in the end, in your faithfull discharg of that trust I have committed to your hands, for by Reason of my too long Indisposition of body, hath made me altogether unfit for Travel my self, which my Occasions sometimes requires, and Assoon as you have Received my Letter, dispatch the Remainder of my Affairs

fairs, with as much haſt as poſſibly, and be upon your Re turn home, which is all at preſent, from

Ludlow Auguſt 13. 1676. *Your Loving Maſter*

G. B.

*A Love-letter ſent to his fair Miſtreſs.*

Faireſt of Creatures,

THe great love and Affections, which I have for your moſt rare, and vertuous perſon, hath inclined me for to eſteem you more then all the perſons in the World beſides, and hath forced me at this time to preſent you with my love and ſervice, and if you pleaſe to accept thereof, and grant me my Requeſt, I ſhall think my ſelf one of the happieſt perſons in the world, for I ſhould not have let you underſtood of that great love and honour I bear you, if the abſolute power of your beauty and vertue, had not induced me to it, and therefore ſince tis a Common thing to Love, and a Miracle to ſubdue affection, let it not ſeem ſtrange, that I am a ſlave to your beauty. To prove that I love you, needs no other Teſtimony, then the witneſs of your rare perfections, which are of power enough to beget an amorous heat in the moſt ſtricteſt Anchorite, and this love is blown up into ſuch a great Flame in me, that it were enough to melt you into pity, were you a Mountain of Ice, and therefore pray be not ſo hard hearted to kill me with diſdain, but accept of my honeſt Love, which ſhall continue as long as I live to your moſt incomparable and vertuous perſon: therefore pray be ſo kind, as to anſwer me with a Letter of hopes, that I may obtain, that I have ſo much wiſhed for, and you will for ever Oblige

Your moſt affectionate Lover, and

*Walſingham March* 27. 1676. Admirer of your Vertue, M. F.

Her kind and loving Anſwer.

*Kind Sir,*

I Received your Letter, by your friend, and I am much Obliged to you, for that good Opinion you have of me, which I acknowledge to be far above my deſerts, and for that Love and good will you therein teſtifie towards me, which I would Interpret as the ordinary effects of your Courteſy and Civilitie, ſince I can no wayes pretend to have deſerved it, aud to give you ſome ſatisfaction, accordiſig to your deſire, this may Inform you, that I have no other Liberty left me, except it be to return you thanks: becauſe my will doth ſo abſolutely depend on my Parents Inclination, and good Liking, that you are to underſtand from them, that which you deſire to know of me, having reſolved as becomes my Duty, not to engage in any thing without their direction and approbation; therefore your further Suit and Addreſs muſt be to them, for their good Will, yet this I will tell you, that if your Love be Real, and I find your deeds anſwerable to your Expreſsions, and what you demand be according to my friends good liking, I can ſo far ſatisfie you, that I fancy you above any other man, and doubt not, but I ſhall anſwer your expectations, therefore Continue then in loving me as much as you pleaſe, for the Truth of your Affections will appear by your conſtant Continuance in the ſame, and if you prove Conſtant I ſhall rather looſe my life, then leave my Reſolutions, for to live and dye

Leſtoff April, 8. 1676. *Your Real and Faithful Friend,*

A M.

How

## How to begin and end Letters with new Compliments.

Sir,

BEing sensible of all those former favours wherewith you have obliged me, I could do no less but make an humble acknowledgement for those unmerited kindnesses which you have been pleased to confer upon me

*Madam*, Your Ladyship I hope need not question my faithfullness in serving you; but shall ever account it the greatest honour that can be conferred upon me to be reckoned amongst the number of your Servants, and all my comfort will be in being obedient to your commands, though at present I must confess, *&c.*

Sir, Since the last time I saw you; abundance of worldly sorrows have surrounded me: insomuch that I have been uncapable of serving my friends of whom I reckon you the chief &c.

*Madam*, If loving you be reckoned and accounted a crime, then I am certain that I am the greatest criminal in all the whole World, yet am I also sure that the wretch that loves you not must be a devil, &c,

Sir, What ever Tongue can express or heart can wish of the welfare of any real and beloved friend, I wish and desire may always attend you, but setting aside all cerimonious complements, these may give you to understand &c.

*Madam*, In the fresh remembrance of those pleasant charms I gained from your resplendent eyes at our last meeting, I take bold courage to salute your ears with these presumptuous words, that I am your Lover, &c.

Sir, I know your discretion to be so great, and your Love so unfeigned that you will not misconstrue any mistake that I shall make in this Letter: therefore I shall not be so curious as at other times I ought to be when I write to those that are more critical, &c.

Supple-

*Supplements, with choice phraſes and ſentences to be uſed in the middle of Letters upon all occaſions.*

WHat elſe may be added to our good-ſucceſs in proceedings of this Nature, I leave to your wiſer judgement to conſider on.

After Madam I have ſaid all I can ſay, I muſt leave it to your goodneſs to make a good and favorable conſtruction upon my honeſt intentions.

I know Sir nothing can be more ſuitable to my preſent condition then your good advice, which I will certainly be guided by; knowing that whatever you admoniſh me to act or do, muſt on neceſſity be for my preſent and future advantage.

You may remember Madam that at our laſt meeting, you promiſed me that I ſhould have a ſecond happineſs, by meeting you next Monday morning where we met before.

Let not delays fruſtrate your deſign, for you know they often prove dangerous, therefore let me adviſe you to ſtrike whilſt the Iron is hot.

Conſult with your Parents firſt, Sir, and get their good wills, and you ſhall ever find me according to my promiſe.

Expect no flatteries from your publick enemy, for your deſerts deſerve no favour, but a juſt revenge ſhall certainly be your portion.

What I have ſaid is cordial and you may believe it, and count me your Friend in telling you the truth of this matter whoſe effects without your care will prove I doubt very dangerous.

Never doubt nor fear but firſt of all make Tryal; experience is the beſt Miſtreſs; Idoubt not but that ſhe will be kind, and that all things may ſuceeed according to your deſire.

Thouſands you know have miſcarried for want of making a quick purſuit in ſuch concerns as yours are: you know that a place of good preferment is ſoon catcht up.

Conſult with reaſon firſt, and be not over-raſh in your attempts, leſt you precipitate your whole deſign.

Con-

*Concluſions and endings of Letters of all ſorts, and upon all occaſions.*

THus do I take my leave and ſubmit my ſelf to your Lordſhips pleaſure who am,
*The humbleſt of your Servants,* A. B.

I never thought my ſelf more happy, then when I was buſie in proſecuting your Worſhip's juſt commands, therefore let me beg of you to harbour no ill opinion of him, who is
*The only admirer of your Worſhip's virtues* A. C.

Thus, hououred Sir, do I commit my ſelf to your juſt cenſure, knowing that you will be favorable to.
*Your diſtreſſed Servant* C. D.

Much might be added worthy Sir upon this ſame buſineſs, but time will not give me leave any longer to inſiſt thereon; I therefore at this time ſhall conclude, and only acknowledge that I am and ever will be to my death,
*Your faithfull Friend and moſt humble Servant* D. E.

But leſt I ſhould ſeem troubleſome in being too tedious in this my Letter, I ſhall only add this to my former acknowledgements, that I am
*Your moſt obliged and moſt faithful Servant* E. F.

Conſider well on what I have writ you word of, and meditate on it at your Leiſure, which is all from
*Your affectionate Father* F. G.

What ever you have writ to me ſhall ſo deeply be lodged in my breaſt, that nothing but death ſhall take it from thence, which I hope will be a ſatisfaction to you, from Sir
*Your dutifull Son* F. G.

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